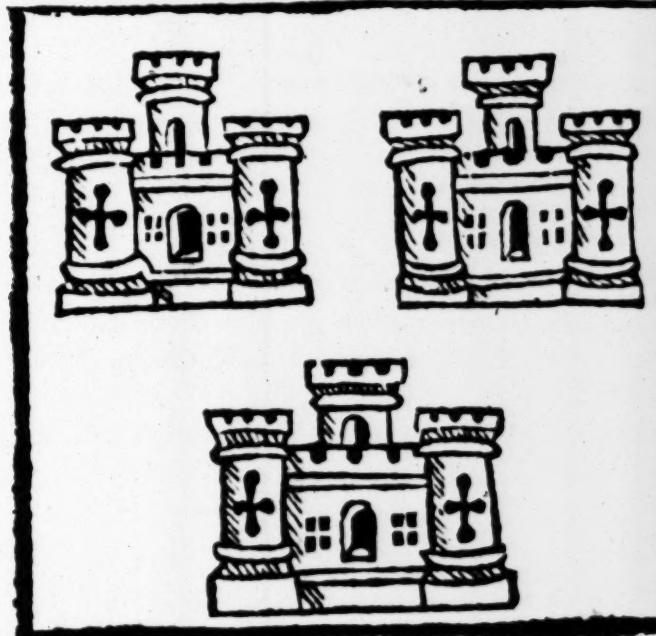


**C**This present boke called the Gouernaunce of Kynges and prynces: Imprynted at the comauement of the good and honourable syre Charles Sonerset Lorde Herbert: and Chaumberleyne unto oure Souertayne lord kyng Henry the. viii. 





**D**o almyghty/sane & conferme our kyng  
In all vertue/to his encrease & glorie.  
His Realme/ & hym by polityke lyupnge.  
With dredne and loue/to haue in memorie.

Of his Enemys/conquest and victorie.  
Of sceptre and sworde/with both to do ryght.  
After his lawes/to euery maner of wylle it.

**C**hirste of all in vertue/to set his gouernance.  
God to please/and his lawes kepe.  
And his lyge men/with hercely obeytaunce.  
In pease to kepe them/where they wake or slepe.  
To punyssh the tyrauntis/ & cherisshe them þ be meke.  
With cleere eyen/of dyscressyon.  
As he them fynde/of dysposicion.

**C**hem that be good/cherisshe them in goodness.  
And them that be/frowarde of corage.  
Pepse the ballaunce/by grete aduysenesse.  
For loue nor hate/to do none outrage.  
Set a good meane/byt wene yonge and olde of age.  
Excellent Brynce/this processe to comple.  
Take it in gree/the rudenesse of my stile.

**C**hirste I that am/your humble seruytoure.  
To your hyghnesse/with hole affection.  
Woyde of Eloquence/I haue do my laboure.  
To sette in ordre/and composycion.  
My grete symplinesse/vnder correccion.  
With ryght hole herche/in all my beste entent.  
For to accomlyssh he/your hyghnesse comandement.

A.16.

**C**Unto this purpose/myn laboure shewys.  
To be besye/with grete dylygence.  
To fynde the boke/of all good Toyes.  
The whiche holly/entytled is in sentence.  
For prudens Prynces/moste dygne of reuerence.  
Called secretis/of olde Phylosophers.  
Of more halewe/than golde in Cofers.

**C**The whiche boke/is notable of fame.  
Somtyme compyled/by Iystotyles.  
Whiche in sappence/of secretis hathe the name.  
Conueyed a meane/by twene warre and pease.  
Eche thyng prouyded/by his grete wylnessse.  
And set in order/the tytles by wrytynge.  
To his discyple/of macydonye the kyng.

**C**Called alysaundre/the myghty Emperoure.  
Born by dyscent/Justly to succede.  
With two Cownes/as trewe enherytoure.  
After his fader/to reygne in perce and mede.  
Called Phylippus/playnly as I rede.  
Therughe all Grece/namyd lordes and syre.  
And by conquest/helde the hole Empyre.

**C**This alysaundre/the Cowne when he toke.  
Knyghtly disposed/of herte and of Corage.  
In whose worshyp/compyled was this boke.  
By Iystotyll/whan he was fallen in age.  
Whiche set a syde/by vertue all outrage.  
Impotent/to ryde and trauaylle.  
For febylnesse/to counsayll in bataylle.

**C**With Alsaundre/preferset in his dayes.

Was none so grete/in his oppynyon.

He was so true/founde at all assayes.

Prudent and wylc/of dyscresyon.

And moste famous with all/of reputacyon.

Grettest clerke/of grece then beynge.

And also wyllest/of all maner cunynge.

**C**And all his/ententyfe occupacion.

Was fully sette/with entyer dylygence.

On spirituall study/of contemplacion.

And mekenes was his gyde/w' moderate reuerence.

Moste charytable/dispylynge slouthe & neclygence.

Also folke in myschefe/and trechery to cōferte.

And what so euer he sawe/the beste dyde reporte.

**C**And specyally/set was his reason.

On trouthe/sayth/and vnygghtwysnesse.

That double of tounge/hatyngge adulacion.

And fals reporte/detraccion and Idelnesse.

And forged talys/without lekenesse.

His mynde alwaye/in vertue hym selfe magnyfy.

With spirite/endued with profycy.

**H**e hadde in his tyme/prerogatyues two.

For his synguler/vertues excellencie.

Called was Phylosopher/& prophete also.

Through all grece/had moste in reuerence.

And for his gracious/celestyal influence.

Bokes do recorde/an aungell was downe sent.

From god aboue/that brought hym this present.

A.iii.

**C**That he shulde, the boke reherse can.  
For his myrtes, and vertuous dignyte.  
Be called an aungell, rather than a man.  
For myracles, of antyquyte.  
Uncouthe straunge, and maruellous to se.  
Whiche surmounte, by recorde of scripture.  
Bothe wyt of man, and werkes of nature.

**C**It is also, of hym made mencyon.  
As this stori, playnly dothe expresse.  
For his vertuous, disposycion.  
Grounded on god, celestyall of swetnesse.  
In whose memory, wryters bere wytnesse.  
He was rauysshed, contemplatyse of desyre.  
Up to the heuen, lyke downe of fyre.

**C**Dewed in vertue, by insperacyon.  
Aboue all other, to his goostly auayle.  
That alysaudre, unto subgeccyon.  
Brought all kynghomes, by his wyse counsell.  
And cronycles, in theyr rehersall.  
All hole the wroide, put in remembraunce.  
And holy inclyned, to his obeyaunce.

**C**To his power, and to his regalye.  
He was called kynge, and monarke of all.  
And by his swerde, and famous chualtrye.  
By Arystotyles, wytte in especyall.  
To holde in his honde, of golde the rounde ball.  
To occupye, through his hyely renowne.  
Seuen Clymatis, and septemtryowne.

**C**hro grudgyngē was/nother in wōrde nor dēde.  
Agayne his conquest/he was so soze dāde.  
All Araby Ḡece/Perce and mede.  
Eche thynge obeyed/what so euer he badde.  
And all his Emp̄yses/demyd were full sadde.  
By his lawes/breely in sentence.  
And all by Arystotyles wyt/and prouydence.

**C**Agayne his purpose/there was none obstacle.  
Fader and p̄ynce/of Phyllosophye.  
Under nature w̄rought/mani grete myracle.  
Wrote Ep̄stoles/of prudēt polycye.  
To alysaundrē/and to his regally.  
By clere example/by whiche he myght knowe.  
To gouerne hym selfe/bothe h̄e and lowe.

**C**Whan the kynge/his P̄ystell had sayne.  
And all the forme/conceyued in sentence.  
To Arystotyll/he w̄rote thus agayne.  
Of gentylnesse/with grete reuerence.  
That he wolde do/his dylygence.  
To conceyue his meanyngē/and holly the mater.  
Of his Ep̄stell/whiche that foloweth hereafter.

**C**The forme of the firſte P̄ystyll  
that kynge Alysaudrē ſent to  
his mayſter Arystotyles.

**B**Uerende fader/doctoꝝ of dyſcyplyne.  
Moſte notable/and dygne of reuerence.  
P̄hebus the ſonne/moꝝe cleerely doth nat ſhyne.

As the reporte of experte prudence.  
A forme prouyded of roiall confydence.  
In fewe termys I purpose to reherse.  
Thynge tolde to me to wchynge the londe of perce.

**C**lyste howe that londe and regyon.  
All other Realmes in Phylosophy.  
It dothe excelle and of hyghe reason.  
And moste inuentyf experte in eche party.  
Theyr nobylnes for to magnysy.  
Ferthest procede by clere entendement.  
For to accomlysshe the fyne of theyr entent.

**C**To encrease theyr lordshyppes I haue þ seuerente  
Quer all Cytees and straunge Regyons.  
And by theyr grete magnanymyte.  
To sprede aborde theyr domynacions.  
Wherupon lyke our entencions.  
Firste on this people I caste me to begynne.  
By your aduyse thyse percyens for to wynne.

**C**And here vpon to make delayes.  
Maugre theyr myght and theyr rebellyon.  
With my knyghthode I wyll make assayes.  
To haue all Perce in subgeccion.  
Abydynge only for shorte concluyon.  
Of your letters for my purparty.  
On this mater playnly to sygnysy.

**C**Answeare of Aystotyles.



**S**One alysaundre/his maker to me is straunge  
And includyth/in maner of dyspayre.  
Peple in thy selfe/if it be lyght to chaunge.  
Firste from the Erthe/the water and the Eyre.  
And parte the Elementis/in their speerys fayre.  
Whan this is done/ferthermore in dede.  
Agaynst percyens/in thy conquest procede.

**C**firste thy purpose peple/it in ballaunce.  
Bothe in Perce/and septemtryon.  
Counte of theyr Cyties/the famous gouernaunce.  
And haue ther with/consydacyon.  
By afoze lyghte/and clere inspeccyon.  
My counsayll is/touchyng the londe of perce.  
From thy purpose/I counsayll that thou cesse.

**C**Begynne no thyng/e/without grete aduyse.  
A grounde of trouthe/firste that it be possyble.  
And I counsayll/if that thou be wylle.  
Foreyne Emprys/whiche that be terryble.  
Attempte them nat/but if it be credyble.  
Lykely in nature/by disposycion.  
Fully to accomplisshē/hyne entencion.

**C**Firste set a preef/in thy prudent aduyse.  
In easyl wylle/by attemperaunce.  
And by the counsaylle/of Phylosophers wylle.  
To bryngē them/easly to good gouernaunce.  
Of one accordē/without varyaunce.  
Under the wynges/of thy roiall bountē.  
Them to cheryllē/in thy benygnite.

**C**if thou thus do by vertuous repayre.  
God shall encrease thy gracious influence.  
And of full truste shall bryng out of dispayre.  
That fynally thy royall excellens.  
Shall please god in vertey existens.  
And thy subgiettis of hole herte and entent.  
Shall hole obey to thy comauement.

**C**for entyer loue firste grounded vpon the.  
And effeccion roted vpon royall confydence.  
Woyde of all charges and mutabylyte.  
Paysyble in thy magnyfycence.  
As monarke pryued in existence.  
Lyke thy desyres thy herte for to queue.  
Amonge percyens to werre as a dyademe.

**C**Thus by wrytynge as made is mencion.  
By Arystotyll he gaue all Percy londe.  
With all the lordshyppes and euery royall towne.  
And large Cytees made subgiettis to his honde.  
Thus firste of Percy as ye shall vnderstonde.  
Thoughe he be by the with other londes many.  
After his fader was kynge of macedony.



**C**The seconde Pystyll that kynge  
Alysandre sent to Arystotyles.

**G**an Alysaundre/as is rehersyd heer.  
This phylosopher/for vtues many folde  
Sent vnto hym/a secret messangeer.  
Without excuse/to come to his housholde  
But for he was feble/and olde.

And Impotent/on the other syde.  
And vnwyldy/for to ryde.

**C**But chefe cause/why Alysaundre sent.  
A purpose take/and a fantasye.  
To declare/playnly what he ment.  
He wiste in sothe/that in Phylosophy.  
With other sectettis/of Astronomie.  
He was experte/and mooste coude vnderstonde.  
This was the chefe/cause of the kynges sonde.

**C**Power of planettis/and meuynge of all sterrys.  
And of eueryche heuenly/intellygence.  
Disposition of peas/and eke of werryss.  
And of eche other straunge/hyd scyence.  
As the seuen goddes/by theyc influence.  
Dispose the ordre/of Incantacions.  
Or of. viij. metallys/the transmutacions.

**C**With other craftis/whiche that ben hede.  
As calculacion/and Geomancy.  
Dyfformacions/of Circe and mede.  
Lokyng of fatis/and pyromancy.  
On londe and water/crafe of geometry.  
Heyght and depnesse/with all experiance.  
Therefore the kyngis/desyred his presence.

**C**But for all this/within hym selfe a thyng.  
There was a secret/he kept not to disclose.  
Nor to publysshe/it openly to the kynge.  
Takyng example/by two thynges in a rose.  
Firste howe the floure/grete sweetnes doth dispose.  
yet in the Thorne/men fynde grete sharpnesse.  
And thus to cunnyng/it may be a lykenesse.

**E**In Erbe and floure/wytyngge worde & ston.  
Eche hath his vertue/of god and of nature.  
But the knowynge/is hyde from many one.  
And nat declared/to eury creature.  
Wherfore he caste/by twene reason and measure.  
To shape a waye/the kynge for to please.  
And somwhat to vnclose/and set his herte at ease.

**C**It is a right/grete dyfference.  
Bytwene a prynces/copall dygnyte.  
And comons rude/of Intellygence.  
To whom belongeth/nat to medle in no degree.  
Of comynynges/that shulde be kepte in secretee.  
But to a kynges/famous magnyfycence.  
And to Clerkes/whiche haue experiance.

**C**It accordeth well/to serche out scripture.  
Mysteryes hyd/offowles beestis and tree.  
And of aungellys/that be moste pure.  
Of meruaylles/and fysshes in the see.  
And of stony/specyally of thre.  
On mynerall/a nother regatyfe.  
Parted oxoure/to lengthe a mannes lyfe.

**C**Of whiche I radde amonge other stonye.  
There was one called anym all.  
Foure Elementis/wrought out for the nonys.  
Erthe/water/and Eyre/and in especiall.  
Joyned with fyre/proportion made egall.  
And I dare saye brefly and nat trary.  
There is none suche stonē in the lapydary.

**C**I radde onys of a Phylosopher.  
Agayne echē stkenes/of value doth molte cure.  
All the treasoure/and golde of Cresus cofer.  
Nor all the stonye that growe by nature  
Wrought by crafte/or forgyd by pycture.  
Lapys and none lapys/stone of grettest fame.  
Aristotyles/gaue it the same name.

**C**And for I haue but lytell redde or seyne.  
To wryte or medle/of so hyghe materys.  
For presumpcion/some wolde haue dysdeyne.  
To be bolde/or clymbe in suche desyrys.  
To scale the ladder/aboue the ix. sperys.  
Or medle of Rubyes/that gyue so clere lyght.  
On holly Shrynes/in the derke nyght.

**C**I was never none experte Jewellere.  
In suche maters/to put my selfe in prees.  
With Phylosophers/mynē iyen were not clere.  
No ther with Plato/or with socrates.  
Exepte the famous doctor/Aristotyles  
Of Phylosophers to Alysaunder kynge.  
Wrote of this stonē/the incruayle in all thyngē.

B.t.

**C**In preuy wylle lyke to his Ententis.

Secretys hyd/Close/in Philosophye.

Firste the departynge/of the fourre Elementis.

And afterwarde as he dothe specyfye.

Eueryche of them for to ratyfye.

And after this lyke his opynyon.

Of these iiii. to make a coniunccyon.

**C**And in suche wylle perfourme vp this stonc.

Seen in the ioynyng/there be none outrage.

But false out errynge hathe famyd many one.

And brought them after/in full grete retage.

By expensys/and outragyous costage.

For lacke of brayne they were made so wode.

Thynge to begynne/whiche they nat vnderstode.

**C**for he that lyste put in experyence.

Forbode secretys/I holde hym but a sole.

Lyke hym that temptyth/of wylfull neglygence.

To stonde vpon/a threfoted stole.

Or sparyth a stewe/et fylleth a barayne pole.

Whan all is done/he getteth none other grace.

But men to scorne hym/et mocke hym to his face.

**C**It is no crafte/pore men to assaye.

It causeth Coffers/and chestys to be bare.

Also marryth wyttes/and brayne dothe affraye.

Yet by wrytyng/this boke dothe declare.

And be reasons/lyste nat for to spare.

With golden reasons/in taste moste lykorous.

Thynge p ignotum/preuyd p ignocius.

**C**ytte of this boke/laboure Philosophorum.  
Rainyd also de regimine principum.  
Of Philosophers secreta secretorum.  
Tresoure compyled Omnia virtutum.  
Rewle directorie set vp in a sume.  
As complexions in helthe and in sekenesse.  
Dyspose themselves to mornynge or to gladnesse.

**C**Whiche boke/dyrected was to the kyngc.  
Alysander bothe in werre and in pees.  
Lyke his requeste/and roiall comaudynge.  
Full accomlyshed by Arystotyles.  
Feeble of age/and impotent doutles.  
Hole of corage/and trewe of his entent.  
To obey his byddynge this boke to hym he sent.

**C**A pystyll of the translatoure  
with the seynge of Arystotyles.

**T**he name of Arystotyles.  
Well aduyled/a proces to prouyde.  
In excuse/he was nat rekeles.  
But Impotent for to go or ryde.  
And alleggyng on the other syde.  
The kynges letters/he well vnderstode.  
Whiche to obey his herte & wyll was gode.

**C**Yef Impotence of his unwyldy age.  
In desyrys/put hym nat abacke.  
To go or ryde/to let his passage.  
Hole in his wyll/there was neu er lacke.

B.ii.

Though his heer/ was turned whyte from blacke.  
He besoughte hym lowly/ of his roiall grace.  
To take a leyser/competent and space.

**C**on excuse this Pystyll/to hym he dyde vnclose.  
And hym aduertysed/in especyall.  
To wyt and corage/hym selfe to dispose.  
And to leue all maners/that be bestyall.  
Vertuse to folowe/that be Imperyall.  
And firste prudently/to discerne.  
Byt wene byce and vertue/his people to gouerne.

**C**on this Pystyll/a bref subscription,  
To Alsyander/he wrote in trouthe.  
That he sholde alwaye/be gouerned by reason.  
And of all byces/to auoyde slouth.  
For it was chefe byce of all vntrouthe.  
And that it was/a thyng fynall.  
Of distruction/of Realmes Imperyall.

**C**also prudent counsayll/make thy chefe pryncesse.  
That she maye prouyde/and take heede.  
Withouten handes/by great aduysenesse.  
Chace flaterys/and them that take mede.  
For fauoure or for olde hatrede.  
And tunges/whiche of custome be double.  
And nainely them/that can sowe trouble.

**C**wysperynge tunges/of taste moste serpentyn.  
Scalyd syluer/whose mouthe is full of blode.  
Smothe afore folke/to flater and to shyne.

2  
And to shewe is faces in one hode.  
Theyr fygure is sole/theyr gall doth no gode.  
All suchelvole be/voyned from counsayll.  
For a bee yeueth hony/and syngeth with his tayll.

¶ And as touchyng/ the stone of Phylosophers olde.  
Of whiche they make souereygne mencyon.  
But one there is/as Aystoryll tolde.  
Whiche all excelleth/in comparyson.  
Stone of stonyss/most souereygne of renowne.  
Touchyng the vertue/of this tyche thynge.  
This he wrote/to the mooste souereygne kyng.

¶ O alysaudre/grettest of dygnyte.  
Of all the woorde/Honarke and regent.  
And of all nacyons/hathe the souereygnete.  
Eche one the obey/and ben obedyent.  
And to conclude/the fyne of our entent.  
All woldly trealoure/brefly shytte in one.  
Is declared/in vertue of this stone.

¶ Thou musest/firste in substaunce.  
What maner/of vncouth dyupsyon.  
Water from eyre/make dysseueraunce.  
And fyre from eyre/by departyson.  
Eche one preserued/from corrupcyon.  
As Phylo.ophers/or this hathe specyfied.  
Whiche by reason/may nat be denied.

Water from eyer/departed prudently.  
Eyer from fyre/and fyre from erth adowne.

B.iiij.

The chaste conceyued/and deuyded trulyn.  
Withouten Errour/or deception.  
Dureth euery Element/in his complexyon.  
As it apperteyneth/to his parte.  
And as is remembred/partsly in this arte.

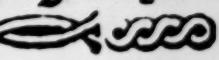
**C**his stone of colour/is somtyme Cytrynade.  
Lyke the sonne/stremyd in his kynde.  
Golde tressed/maketh heres full glade.  
With more treasoure/than hath kynge of ynde.  
Of precyous stonys/wrought in theyt dewe kynde.  
The Cytryn coloure/for the sonne bryght.  
And whyte for the mone/that shyneth all nyght.

**C**his Phylosopher/brought forthe in parys.  
Whiche of this stonys/wrote fully the nature.  
And all the deuysyon/sette by grete aduys.  
And therupon/dyde his bely cure.  
That the perfeccyon/longe sholde endure.  
Lyke the entent/of Arystotyles sonde.  
Whiche none but he/coude well brynghe on honde.

**C**for though the mater/openly were nat tolde.  
Of these stonys/what Phylosophers ment.  
Arystotyles/that experie and olde.  
And he of parys/that forth this present sent.  
In his best faythfull trewe entent.  
With circustaunce of Arystote/ynde and Perce.  
Touchyng all stonys/that clerkes can reherse.

**C**herinogynes/had hym selfe alone.

With one Phylipp/that with hym was secrete.  
Knewe the vertue/of euery Preuy stone.  
As they were/dysposed of degree.  
From hym was hyd/none uncouthe pruyte.  
Hermogynes and he/knewe euery thyng.  
Of allsuche vertues/as longe to a kynge.

**C**Of. iiiij. maner kynge dyuers  
of dysposycyon. 

**T**here be kynge/dysposed by nature.  
And some that brayde/on lyberalyte.  
And of hole arte/with all theyr bely cure.  
Theyr study set/in largesse to be free.  
That theyr imperiall/magnanymyte.  
Sholde nat be spotted/in no maner wyle.  
Touchyng the wyle/offrowarde Couetyse.

**C**The Phylosopher/in ordre dothe expresse.  
That some kynge/to hym selfe is large.  
And to his subgietis/she weth great largesse.  
And some for to take/on hym the charge.  
Largely dothe parte/and hathe hym selfe scarstenesse.  
And Italiance/recombe by wrytynge.  
Large on eche party/is vertue in a kynge.

**C**Aristotels wryteth/of them in ynde.  
And reporteth that,that kynge is gloriosus.  
Whiche to hym selfe/is moste scarce of kynde.  
And to his subgietis/is large and plenteous.  
yet they of Perce/be contrayous.

But to my dome/that kyngē whiche hath the charge  
Is moste comended/that is to both large.

**C**Itemane as thus/by aduylyson.  
Towarde hym selfe/kepe his astate royall.  
By attemperaunce/and by dyscreyon.  
Lyke his subgrettis/in especyall.  
As they deserue/to be lyberall.  
Byt wene myrthe and lyte/a meane to deuyse.  
Of to moche/and streyght couetyse.

**C**There as a maner/straunge difference.  
For lacke of reason/byt wene prodygalyte.  
And a kynges/royall magnyfycence.  
Whan he lyste/parte of lyberalite.  
To his subgrettis/as they ben of degree.  
And egally/to holde the ballaunce.  
Eche man content/with discrete suffylance.

**C**Also a meane/payled in ballaunce.  
Byt wyr hym/that is a grste wastoure.  
And hym that is content/by attemperaunce.  
To kepe a meane/so payled by measure.  
And that Errour/bryngē in none errour.  
Consyderyngē firsste/of prynces the power.  
And nexte the merutes/of the labour.

**C**Conclude thyse two/good wyll and grutchyngē.  
Of them that ben/saythfull in seruyle.  
And of stowarde/wraiglyngē.  
That wyll nat obey/in no maner wyse.

To folowe the doctrine/and great emp̄yse.  
To put his body in peryll/moste mortall.  
And in partyes/that be percyall.

To all suchē a p̄ynce/of hyghē noblenesse:  
Shall nat spare/his golde/noꝝ his treasour.  
And to parte with them/stuffe of his rychesse.  
Thynge app̄rop̄yd/to euery conquerour.  
But yef fredoyn/conducte his labour,  
That lyberalyte/his conquest to p̄ouyde  
At his moste nede/his men wyl nat abyde.

Aristotyles/made a discripſyon.  
full notable/in his wrytynge.  
And set a maner/of dyuysyon  
That there be fourē/maner of dyuerse kyngeſ  
Some be large/in their departynges.  
Bothe to ryche/and noble of blode.  
That kynge that so dothe/truely yeueth his gode.

But he that is streyght/in his keppynge:  
And locketh vp his treasoure/in his Cofre.  
And lyste nat parte/with no maner thynge.  
Noꝝ to his subḡiettis/no good dothe profre.  
In nede or myſchef/lyſt no parte to offre.  
I can nat greatly/his fredome comende  
That vnto nouther/lyſte nat to attende.

A kynge ſ partyth/with ſuſe as god hath ſent.  
That coinyth by fortune/or conqueſt of bataylle.  
To his knyghtes/and ſouldyours of entent.

**S**uche in trouthe at mooste nedē may auayle.  
And thein to relcue that fall in parayle.  
What foloweth after b̄efly to terinyne  
Lyght of his noblynelle shall euer encrease & shyne.

**C**ature hath set two extreynettes.  
Firste by maner of dyscrete prouydence.  
That the strynys of lyberalytees.  
May be set in good measure & groude of prouydēce  
Paynsyng in ballaunce with moder of sappence.  
Quene of all vertues and lady souereyngue.  
She wyngē alway goodnesse þ lyst her to obteynē.

**C**and firste conceyue and beholde eche astate.  
That there be none frowarde transgressyon  
Of wylfulness nor yet of weywardē debate.  
Eche thyngē conuey by reason.  
That measure maye haue domynacyon.  
Byt wene right trouthe and equyte.  
And also auaryce and prodigalyte.

**C**But to my dome and to my fantasye.  
Seyth Arystotyles that kynge is most comedable.  
That hath largesse in his roialye.  
With meanys of vertue to stonde stable.  
Trewe in his feyth not feynt nor varyble.  
Byt wene Aueryce trouthe and equyte.  
The vyce auoydynge of prodigalyte.

**C**and vertue by roiall hyghe largesse.  
Set in a Prynce by prudēt gouernauice.

That therè be neyther/scaſſytē nor exſeſſe.  
But ryght rule/of attemperaunce.  
And that meaſure/wey the ballaunce.  
To recompence/with equyty and ryght.  
Lyke theyr meryties/to cuery maner of wrght.

**C**Wytwene trouthe/and forged flaterye.  
There is ſtraunge/bncouthe dyfference.  
Contraryus poſlon/I dare well certyfye.  
To all eſtatyſ/of royll excellencē.  
Where double meanyngē/hath ony aſſyſtence.  
There groweth fraude/and couerth falſe poſlon.  
With ſugred galle/honyed with colluſyon.

**C**Of prynces Erys/they be labourers.  
The tenour rounde/and mery gothe theyr bellyſ.  
For with theyr tunge/they ſtynge worse then bretys  
For hunger thurſte/a myde Tantalus bellyſ.  
Sprygeth proſerpyna/that fayre & bytter ſinellys.  
So ſeinblably/be flaterers in apparaunce.  
Outwardly ſugred and galle in exyſtence.

**C**And he that wyll be famous in largesse.  
And haue a name/of lyberalyte.  
Let hym conceyue/a forne in his nobelleſſe.  
The deſertrytes/of hyghe and lowe degré.  
Wytwene meaſure exſeſſe and scaſſytē.  
So deſerte by attemperaunce.  
That lyke deſertrytē che man haue ſuffysauce.

**C**In departyngē/ſtandes wyſdome and foly.

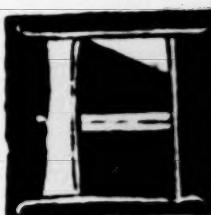
With discretion/medled in this matere.  
Who yeueth his treasoure/to them that be worthy.  
And them gouerneth/with glad countenaunce & cheare.  
As right reason/and tyme doth requere.  
In his departyng/as to myne aduyse.  
Suche a kynge/is prouydent and wylc.

**C**And his lordshyp/and all his regyon.  
Shall encrease/in longe felycyte.  
With laude and prayse/loue and subieccion.  
As appeteyneth vnto his dignyte.  
To were his Crowne/in longe prosperyte.  
I dare affirme/as it is tolde.  
Suche were comended/of Phylosophers olde.

**C**It hath ben sene/that ouer large expence.  
In regyons/and many grete cytie.  
Hath unwarily brought in indygence.  
Bothe of astates/and Comynaltie.  
But Arystotyles/of grete auctorite.  
Wrote in a booke/playnly concludyng.  
þ vertuo<sup>9</sup> puydece & moderate largenes/was moste  
(notablyest in a kynge.

**C**ferther Arystotyles saith/þ kyng þ in his roially  
Wylfull vntcouth/by false presumpcion.  
And by extorte power/groundes hym on robbery.  
Is greatly blynded in abusyon.  
And in all his werke for a shorte conclusyon.  
To saye by recorde of scripture.  
In prosperyte/shall nat longe endure.

**C**How wytte and savynce may be  
parseyued in a Prynce.



Exte that the fanie of roiall savynce.  
So that reporte of his notable fame  
Be boyde of vyses that clere itellygencie.  
In his Empyre be clere from al dessame  
And that no reporte/blotte nat his name  
Nor no fals counsayll/of folke that be double.  
The Shynynge/of his name to trouble.

**C**This to saye that he be quyete and peasyble.  
And subgiettis to kepe from dyuyson.  
And nat lyghtly to be credyble.  
To talys that make discencyon.  
For wherre peas reygneth/ is all perfeccyon.  
Whiche kepereth subgiettis as they shulde be,  
from all stryues/quyete and bnyte.

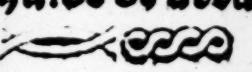
**C**Howe a kynge shulde be relygyous.

**A**Kynge shulde be/ of his lyfe.  
Good of exaumple/sad and relygyous.  
Mercyable/and kepe hym out of stryfe.  
And in his domys/nat to be rygorous.  
And to chastyse all/that ben vycyous.  
And namely all/that ben founde shewes.  
And contrary to all maner of lawes.

**C**Of full purpose/hooly to worche.  
To chastyse them/by equyte and ryght.

C.i.

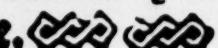
That ben empynes/bnto hooly churche.  
And on hcrytykes/so; to proue his myght.  
And if there be/ony maner wyght.  
Hardy in dede/of presumpcion.  
That fende his lawes/hauie dewe correccion.

**C**howe a kynge shulde be arrayed  
lyke his astate. 

**T**o a kynges hye mageste.  
Apperteyneth arrayment/ryche & honorable.  
For the honour/of his royll dignyte.  
Sadde in his chere/and in his demeanyng stable.  
And of his worde/nat feynt nor batpable.  
And of his behest/trusty and trewe.  
Sad as a Sapher/and alway of one hewe.

**C**howe chastyte apperteyneth well in a kynge.

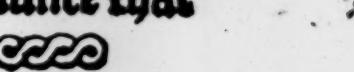
**D**oble prynce/consyder thyne astate royll.  
Howe this vertue,called chastyte.  
Oughte to remayne/in a prynce in especyall.  
With abstynence/from all dyshoneste.  
And so beware/grete recouse of sempnyte.  
Whiche pulleth/prynces vertues corage.  
And on theyr tymme/mabeth them to fall in age.

**C**howe it longeth to a kynge ones in the yere  
to shewe hym/in his astate royll and beste  
Array/and his lordes in the same wyle to shewe  
them selfe in his presence. 

**A**fter the custome/ of royall excellencye.  
And the vsage eke/ of come to wane.  
Kynges are wonte/in theyr magnyfycencye.  
To shewe theyr noblesse/ and theyr hyghe renowme.  
Theyr lordshyp/ and domynacyowme.  
To kepe theyr subiectis/betrayly in dede.  
Under a perde/betwix loue and dede.

**C**o that loue haue/a prerogatyfe.  
To be preferryd/suche as haue power.  
To shewe them selfe/duryng all theyr lyfe.  
Of discrecion/auoydng all daunger.  
This to laye/etche state in his maner.  
Shall dewely/with euery circumstaunce.  
As to hym perteyneth/do his intendaunce.

**C**After his lawes/his statutes to obeye.  
On payne of deth/no wyght be contrarie.  
What he comauandeth/his byddynge to with seye.  
For what euer/from his precepte varye.  
D; on his byddynge/beslowe o; lyf nat tarye.  
Wherof he ought/hym to hym.  
But lyfe and deth/stonde in Jeopardye.

**C**Of the dewe obseruaunce that  
longeth to a kyng. 

**N**o that euer/ of presumpcyon.  
Dare attempte/on any maner syde.  
The kynges right in his oppynyon.  
To interupe of malice/o; of p;ye.

C.ii.

And therpon/presame to hyde.  
To withstande the kynges roiall myght.  
Dy ony thyng/that longeth to his ryght.

### C How solace and disperte longeth to a kyng.

**A**nd as it longeth/also to a kyng.  
With Instrumentis/of heuenly armonye.  
For his disperte/prynces abydyng.  
full solempnely with dyuers mynistralsye.  
To reconforde/and gladde his regalye.  
And comones/with entyer dylygence.  
With ryght hole herte/reioyse his presence.

### C What apperteyneth also to his gloriye.

**D**is his noblesse/and to his synguler gloriye.  
To haue about hym/many worthy knyght.  
For cheualtrye/conserueth the memorie.  
And the sonne alwaye to shyne bryght.  
That it shall nat/etlypsen of his lyght.  
But thorough the worlde/bothe in lenathe & breste.  
As fyry Phebus/bothe shyne and spredre.

### C The symplytude of a kyng.

**T**hre fourre maners/muste consydered be.  
Towarde god his obedyence.  
And to the people his lyberalite.  
As they deserue/with due reuerence.  
The kyng to aquyte in his magnyfycence.

As his subgiettis/be goodly to hym sayne.  
Lyke their discertis/he quyte so agayne.

**C**howe a kynge shulde be gouernyd  
in all maner of weddes.

**H**o erthe/holsome be the raynes.  
It causeth floures/fresshely to spredē.  
It maketh medowes/it agreable playnes.  
To shewe ther beaute/both i legth & bredē  
And ouer mooz/who that taketh hede.  
Without moysture/or cherysshynge of the rayne.  
In his beaute/comyth nouther floure nor grayne.

**C**By a maner iuste/symylytude.  
As rayne conforteth/euery herre and tree.  
Branches a losse/playnly to conclude.  
So shulde a kynge/of his benyngnyte.  
Shewe hym gracious/to hyghe & lowe degree.  
That euery wryghte/with deuereuence.  
Shulde with glad cheare/parte from his presence.

**C**howe a kynge shulde be mercyable.

**H**kyng also/in his astate notable.  
To his subgiettis/of hyghe and lowe degre.  
Shulde he gracious/and mercyable.  
Leue rancoure/and haue on them pyte.  
Preferre mercy/consydre also and se.  
That mercy is/of vertues in his tcone.  
Crownyd with golde/moste syngulerly alone.

C.iii.

**C**It longeth to a kynges specciall to kepe  
his behest promys and fayth. 

**A**kynges promyse shulde be iuste and stable.  
As a Centre stonde in one degré  
That chaunge lyghtly nor be waryable.  
And beware of mutabylyte.  
Worde of a kynges must stonde in one degré.  
What that euer that a prynce sayth.  
The conclucion dependeth vpon sayth.

**C**Howe stodye and Clergye shulde be  
promotyd in a kyngdome. 

**A**S the sonne sheweth in his guyse.  
Amonge smale sterrys w<sup>e</sup> his bemy<sup>s</sup> byghe.  
Ryght so in the same maner wyle.  
In vnyuersyte sheweth for the his lyght.  
In a kyngome as it shulde of ryght.  
And by the Prynce haue dewely fauoure.  
So clergye beryth a waye the floure.

**C**Where clergye is there is phylosophye.  
Marchaundysse plente and rychesse.  
Prudent counsayll defence of cheualtrye.  
In ech a state wysdome gentyllesse.  
Curteysye fr<sup>e</sup> dame and pr<sup>e</sup>wesse.  
And as the kynges to increase his name.  
His people wyl folowe and gladly do the same.



**C**howe a kynge houeth to haue a leche.  
to kepe the obseruance of his body.

**E**or helthe of body/the kynge of hool entent.  
Must haue lyke to his desyre.  
Suche one as knoweth/cours of the firmament.  
And is expert/a good astronomyre.  
Whiche that knoweth/seasons of the yere.  
As in his tyme/was olde Cyprian.  
A phylosopher/and an expert man.

**C**he knewe the cours/and disposition.  
Of moyste and drye/bothe of hete and colde.  
Chaunge of the yere/and reuolution.  
For in suche thynge/he was expert and bold.  
Knewe the cours of planetis/many folde.  
And of Elementis/the reuolutions.  
Chaunge of tymes/and of compleccions

**C**And specially/in astronomye.  
Knowe the tyme/when he shall slepe or wake.  
Under a rewle/of Phylosophye.  
In no wyse that he/none exesse make.  
He must also/all surfettis for sake.  
For ony luste/of frowarde appetyte.  
Counseyl of lechys/to modefyre his delyte.

**C**Saturne is clouthe/Mars malencolyous.  
And Phabus cauleth/disposyng to gladnesse.  
In retoryke/helpeth Mercurious.  
For in the moone/is no stabynesse.

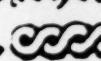
**F**ortune braydeth/aye on doubylnesse.  
And sythe a kynge/upon eche partye.  
**S**cant vpon chaunges/full harde hym to guye.

**C**howe a kynge shulde be gouernyd  
in astronomye. 

**A**stronomyers/that knowe preuytees.  
Helthe of body/discraslynge of lyknesse.  
Dyuers causes/of infirmytees.  
Wherof feuers/done so grete distresse.  
Achys Goutis/of dynkes grete excesse.  
And out of tyme/beware of longe watchyng.  
Whiche to the helthe/is contrarie to a kynge.

**C**herte foloweth howe profitable the vtrypte  
is in the helthe of a kynge. 

**A**lysandre/leche as prouydence.  
Of such as ben/expert lechys.  
Suche as be prouyd/by experyence.  
And prouyd auctours/as the phesyk techys.  
Truste nat on the dede/nor in gay spechys.  
Worde is but wynde, lese worde and take the dede.  
Chynge well expert/disservyth well his mede.

**C**howe moche auaylle is comprehendyd in  
the dylygence of a good leche. 

**A**Good leche expert/in a kynge.  
For dilygent/obseruacion.

A kynges helthe/be wrought in all thyngē.  
So that in qualyte/be founde none erryngē.  
Fro; hynder his appetyte/in mete nor dynke.  
Fro; be discrasyd/to hyndre his appetyght.  
Wherof nature/hath contrarious delyght.

**C** And one rule spccyally shall I teche  
Touchyngē the tyme and houre of his dyete.  
So he nat wante the presence of his leche.  
To his complexiōn/as it is moste meete.  
Cvne set at wayne/colde and heete.  
With this rewarde/by reason to expresse.  
By good aduyce/that he do none excelle.

**C** A specyall Epistyll to the synguler  
heithe of a Prynce. 

**N**aturall Phylosophers/assentyd all in one.  
Sayngē þ a man is made/ol. iiiij. humours.  
And they a tentynge in wrytyngē euerychone.  
After the wdder reynes/hayles/and shroudes.  
Planettis a lofte/and the heuenly touris.  
After they sette/in heuen a gouernance.  
In erthe foloweth of helthe attemperaunce.

**C** Of moche excelle foloweth corrupcion.  
Exelle of trauaylle/causeth febylnesse.  
Thought sorowe be grete occacion.  
To engendre great sykenesse.  
And putteth folke/in frowarde distresse.  
That vndiglyon without remedye.

Causeth ofte sythe/by processe that they deye.

**C**o serue helthe after a mannes complexion.

**A**fter drynesse/and humedyte.  
And chaungynge/also of complexionis.  
Of etynge drynkyng/where as necessyte.  
Requyret his tyme/and gyue purgacionis.  
Benecessarye/after the seasons.  
Colre flewme/brennyng of moysture.  
To kepe a meane/a leche muste do his cure.

**C**and howe a kynge muste take kepe/when he  
shall rest and whan he shall slepe. 

**S**Lepe is noyce/of digestyon.  
If it be take/in attemperaunce.  
If logardye/gyue ony occacyon.  
Causeth heuynesse/slouthe or disturbance.  
Put a man/out of good gouernaunce.  
Beware of wachte/kepe also the date.  
To kepe a mesure/of etynge drynkyng late.

**C**howe a leche shall gouerne a Prynce  
Slepyng and wakynge. 

**I**f thou wylt be hole/kepe the fro syknesse.  
And cesyse the stroke/of pestylence.  
Loke thou be glad/and voyde all heuynesse.  
Flee wykked eyres/eschewe the presence.  
Of infecte places/causyng the vvolence.

**D**rynke good wyne/and holosome metys take.  
Walke in clene Cyre/escheue the mystes blake.

**C**And if so be lechys/do the fayle  
Than take good hede/and use thynges thre.  
Temperat dyete/and temperat trauayle.  
Nat malencolyous/for nonc aduersytle.  
Meke in all trouble/glad in pouerste.  
Ryche wither with lytell/contente with suffysaunce.  
If þþespyke lacke/make this thy gouernaunce.

**C**Aster mete beware/make no longe slepe.  
Hede fote and stomake/preserue aye them fro colde.  
Be nat pensyfe of thought/take no kepe.  
Aster thy rente/maynteyne thy housholde.  
Suffre in tyme/in thy right to be bolde.  
Sweren none othes/no man to begyle.  
For worldly toye/last here but a whyle.

**C**Thus in two thynges/standeth all welthe.  
Of soule and body/who so lyste them sewe.  
Moderat fode/yeueth to manrys helthe.  
And all surfettis/dothe from hym remewe.  
Ind charyte/to the soule is dewe.  
Wherfore this dycet/þþa lysaundre kynge.  
To all in defferten/is rycheſt thyng.



**C**At the fource seasons of the yere/syrte  
of all þþegynge at heit.

**T**hat tyme/ the season of the yere,  
The heuenly bawme/ ascendyng fro þ roote  
The fresshe season/ of lusty grene vere.  
Whiche quycketh corages/ and dothe hertes boote.  
Whan rownde buddys/ appere on braunches soote.  
The growynge tyme/ and the yonge sonne.  
I meane the season whan ver is begonne.

**C**And bryght Phebus/ entreth the rainynys hede.  
And begynneth/ ascendyng in his spere.  
Whan the Crowne/ of alcest whyte and rede.  
Aurora passyd/ full fresshely dothe appere.  
For Joye of whiche/ with heuenly notys clere.  
The byrdes syngynge/ in theyr armonye.  
Salve that season/ with sugryd melodye.

**C**Bytwene hote and moyste this ver is temperat.  
Hauynge his moyiture/ of rynters sharpe shoures.  
Of soinc folowynge/ to flora consecrat.  
Hath moderat hete/ be recorde of auctours.  
The season ordeyned/ to aray with newe colours.  
As gardynes herberyng and to sowe sedys.  
And the lusty syluer dewe/ in the grene medys.

**C**Entryng this season/ wynter doth leue take.  
Frostys departyd/ and molte with the sonne.  
And euery soule/ chosen hath his make.  
And Ryghtyngalys/ for Joy theyr songe begonne.  
Yonge rabetys ben from theyr claperys ronne.  
And the cokkowe/ that dyde in wynter dare.  
In euery lay/ to synges he lyf nat spare.

**C**louers of custome, do this season preye.  
And yonge folkes flouryng in tender age.  
Erly on the morrowe, it can make them arye.  
So can nature, prycke them in theyr corage.  
Walkynge by ryuayles, holdynge theyr passage.  
On plesaunte hillys, so hollome is the eyer.  
Hauynge grete Joye, the weder is so fayer.

**C**Wherfore alsaundre, who so take hede.  
And lyt couydre, by good ayslement.  
Of our yonge age, accounte we must in dede.  
Howe we haue dispendyd, our talent.  
Duchet lyke folys, or lyke folkes prudent.  
To vs comyngyd, whyle we haue ben here.  
Wherfore the Juge, whan we shall appere.

**C**Nexte than foloweth the  
season Estas. 

**C**His tyme begynneth, soone vpon barnabe.  
June Iule and August, lacketh this season.  
Endeth in septembre, the lonne in virgyne.  
Hoot and drye, of displosyon.  
And coloryke, of complexyon.  
As I remembred, of auctours olde.  
Endeth with Bertylme we, with his dewys colde.

**C**Syer coloy Estas, and inuentus age.  
To gyder accorde, in hete and drynesse.  
And coloryke men, Cysryn of visage.  
Roughely and angry, some haue grete hardynesse.  
D. i.

¶ Of growynge sklendre/funious of hatynesse.  
With smoke and fyre/haueth grete accordaunce.  
Furyous of yre/and frowarde of dalyaunce.

¶ Been at mydsomer/brynghe hony to theyt heuys.  
The lelyes whyte/abrode theyt leuys sprede.  
Bestes pasture/and shade he vnder leuys.  
Agayne the sonne/grasse dyeth in the mede.  
Chaplettis be made/of rosys whyte and rede.  
And euery thyng/draweth to his ryppynge.  
As it faryth by man/in his age growynge.

¶ Strawberrys cherries/in gardens men may se.  
Beenis type/and pescoddes grene.  
Agayne heetis/whan men diltempyd be.  
Folkys gader putslane/and letuse that be clene.  
The season flora/that is of flours quene.  
Hit fresshe motles/she turneth nowe cytryne.  
The vertue of herbys/doth agayne declyne.

¶ In this processe/it nedeth not to tarye.  
But holy to god/set thyne inwarde entent.  
Wherfore O alysaundre/we herre loke thou nat barye  
But thanke the lord/of what thyng that he sent.  
Pouerte or ryches/therwith to be content.  
As god disposeth/therin to haue plesaunce.  
As one in god/and god thy suffysaunce.

¶ For by the sentence/of seyntis and of cleryg.  
Of thy discretis/after the rekenynge.  
And lyke the fruytis/of thy good werkys.

Thou shalt be goueruyd/ this sothe is no lesynge.  
With peas eternall/last at thyne endynge.  
With criste to reygne/in the heuenly consytorpe.  
Whan thou by tryumphē/hast of thy soone victorpe.

**C**Than foloweth after the thyrde  
season/called Autumpne. 

**T**his tyme of custome/set folkys in besynesse.  
Eche tyde man/peuech hym to trauaylle.  
To repe and mowe/and exclude ydelnesse.  
No man sparyd/and husbondes wyl not faylle.  
To rysle vp erely/and call vp poraylle.  
Blowe theyt horrys/ox the latke synge.  
And stuf their graungis/w<sup>e</sup> corne þ they home byngis.

**C**the tyme by processē/boydeth the felde of greynē.  
Taketh awaie from braunches/theyt swetnesse.  
Causeth the trees/of fruyte to be barreyne.  
The leuys falle/the wynde abzode them dresse.  
The daye the nyght/bothe of one gretnesse.  
The sonne in Lybra/Egall by ballaunce.  
As is the wyl/of goddes ordynaunce.

**C**the season is d̄redefull/and distemperate.  
Disposyd to feuers/through eyer of pestylence.  
Of chaungynge/and felde in one astate.  
Verylous for lyknesse/and with vvolence.  
Of trouble humorous/doth folke full grete offence.  
For flewme this tyme/hath domynacion.  
Beware of lyknesse/that gynnyth in that season.

**C**Ex the autumpnus/and age accordyngē in one.  
Slough malencolyk/satlyngē euer amonge.  
Dull courbyd downward/what might & lust is gone  
full of yre/though he be nat stronge.  
Soone meuyd/whether it be right or wronge.  
And thus senectus with autumpne doth accorde.  
He and this season/drawe bothe by one corde.

**C**Autumpne taketh his leue/of seynt Clement.  
The tyme dyuers/and wondre batyable.  
With straunge passyons/sodeynly men shent.  
By unware syknesses/whiche be vncurable.  
And for this season/is unkouth and vnstable.  
With sodeyne chaunges/& complexions to greue.  
Therefore in nouembre/he taketh his leue.

**C**Wherfore consydre/in thyne astate toyall.  
Take the morall yte of/Autumpne the season.  
Hewe it is appropryd/and in especyall.  
To the thicke age/and the complexion.  
Of the and me/so shorte conclusion.  
Wherfore **D**alysaundre haue in remembraunce.  
Peyse every thyngē/and kepe the in gouernaunce.

**C**The fourthe determinacion/of the  
fourse seasons of the yere. **ccc**

**A**fter heruest/whan men thresshe sheups.  
Some whete/gadre wynter fuyt*is* gardynes  
And somer trees/be bareyne of their leups.  
Men put in selers/corochē newe wynes.

**M**usste lese his name/towarde leynt martynes.  
**M**uryly dronke/whan it is throughe fyne.  
And lasteth to the season/of leynt martyne.

**C**he dayes shorte/the nyghtes wonder longe.  
Colde and moyste/of fleyme nutrytyme.  
Contrary to **E**stas/the frostis be so stronge.  
In rotis resteth/the vertue vegetatyse.  
Grene herbis/and braunches/loste theyr lyfe.  
The sonne this season/beynge in aquarye.  
Beestis to their bynne/for stormys dare not tarye.

**C**thus the fourte seasons/deuyded of the yere.  
Firste ver/whan phebus doth in his spere aryse.  
The growyng tyme/whan buddes out appere.  
**E**stas folowynge/whan floures in their guyse.  
Spredeth on their stalkys/ageyne tytan doth aryse.  
Autumpne after/whiche longe doth nat tarye.  
And yemps endeth/the ende of februarie.

**C**thus fourte tymes/maketh vs a merroure clere.  
Of mannes lyfe/a full playne ymage.  
Ver and iuuentus/togider haue sogere.  
**E**stas foloweth/longyng to sadder age.  
To vs autumpne/bryngeth his message.  
Of senectus/wynter laste of all.  
Howe deth his oxlogge/doth on vs call.

**C**With ver in youthe/we hadde lustynesse.  
Whiche is vnpossyble/agayne to recure.  
**E**stas gaue vs strength and hardynesse.

D.iiij.

**F**louryng in fress henesse/mot longe to endure.  
Autumpne after/bryngeth vs a fygure.  
Ofsenectus wynter/of crokyd age.  
Howe all thynges passeth/halt here none ostage.

**C**Lo alysaudre/ye mo we se thynges tweyne.  
Auentyng lyenge/longynge unto age.  
Malencoly fals demyng/and disdeyn.  
Many passyons/rancour and dotage.  
Ende of this lyfe/terme of our byage.  
For decrepitus/hath his merke sette.  
This woldē shall ende/it may not be lette.

**C**This to make/a combynacion.  
Of ver and youthe/by a maner accordaunce.  
Of manrys sadnesse/and astat the season.  
Flouryng in luste tyme/of molte pleasaunce.  
Autumpne and elde/with the grete habundaunce.  
Than foloweth wynter/and all doth ouer caste.  
So doth age/for it may nat alwaye laste.

**C**Of this forsayde/take the morallyte.  
Setteth asyde all maters/spoke in bayne.  
The fourte seasons/she we in their degre.  
Firste ver & Estas/nerte autumpne with his grayne.  
Constraynt of wynter/with frostis ouer layne.  
To our fourte ages/the seasons well applyed.  
Deth all consumeth/may nat be denyed.

**C**Here dyed this tanslatour & noble poete Johs lyd  
gate/& the folower gan this prologue on this wyle.

**W**Here floure of knyghtbod / þ batayle doth refuse.  
What shulde dwert entre into the place.  
Bareyne in sentence shulde hym selfe excuse.  
And by presumpcion not shewe out his face.  
Of John lydgate howe shulde I the sotyll trace.  
Folowe in secretes celestyall and dyuyne.  
Sythe I am nat aqueynted with the musys nyne.

**C**fronellis sent from the lady nature.  
For a conclusion hit Journey to conueye.  
As of anthyclaudian reherseth the scripture.  
By the seuen susteris in their passage toke the waye.  
Gynnyng at gramer as for locke and kaye.  
In ordre and proportion folowyng doctryne.  
Whiche well was aqueynted with the musis nyne.

**C**This seuen susteryn souereygne and entyng.  
If I my penne to this matere do applye.  
The nyne musis blame shall in maner.  
That they on laboured scant on my partye.  
I gaue none attendaunce I may it nat denye.  
Howe shulde I than my mater do conbyne.  
Whiche am nat aqueynted with the musis nyne.

**C**If I shulde talke in scyencis tryuyall.  
Gynnyng at gramer in sygnes & sygures.  
Or in meetrys the feet to make equall.  
Be tyme and proportion kepyng my mesures.  
This lady lyft nat to parte the treasures.  
Of her substaunce to my rudenesse in dygne.  
Whiche am nat aqueynted with the musis nyne.

**C**his mater to conueye/by trewe conclusion.  
Verytees of logyke/Certis I must applye.  
Where vnder floures/restyf the scorpyon.  
Whiche I fere to take/for my partye.  
Premyssis congrewe/whiche can nat applye.  
Of olde phylosophers/to folowe the doctrine.  
Sypth I am nat aqueynted/with the musis nyne.

**C**I haue with tully/gaderyd no fresshe floures.  
The chare of stonescis/to paute in dewe maner.  
With petrak of rethoryk/no colours.  
Of termys h sentence/in my wrytyng doth appere.  
Arythmetryk/or musyk/my dulnesse/do nat cleere.  
Howe shulde I than/by geometrie drawe right lyne  
Whiche am nat aqueynted with the musis nyne.

**C**Of astronomye/the secrees in wysible.  
Unknowen with tholomye/I sayle cognycion.  
Whiche by inuencion/to me be in possyble.  
Without doctours/and exposicion.  
Oz of these senne/to make a declaracion.  
After yout entent/in this tretayse to enclyne.  
Whiche am nat aqueynted/with the musis nyne.

**C**Thus at wene twayne/perell of the see.  
Silla and carybdis/put in disperacion.  
What to receyue/and whiche for to flee.  
Constrayned I am/to make dubytacion.  
The sharpe corosie/of fretynge detraction.  
Firste I fere/to my party shall enclyne.  
Sypth I am nat aqueynted/with the musis nyne.

**C**Thus set in peryll, saplynge offocoure.  
He doth conforde/a prouerbe in myne entent.  
Eche tale is endyd/as it hath fauourc.  
Wherfore to dredc/no lenger I wyll assent.  
But brefely fulfull/pout comauement.  
In moder tounge/this matere to conbyne.  
Whiche safe supporste/knowe nat the musys nyue.

**C**here Aystotyll wryte a speciall pystyll to  
Alysaundre how he shall conserue naturall  
hete and helthe of body. 

**S**One alysaundre/of helth to be sure.  
One thyng I the pray/first and pryncipally.  
Dewe proporcione/of hete in nature.  
To conserue for to knowe that redyly.  
In double wyle/man deyeth fynally.  
Of whiche as be age/one is naturall.  
The other by fortune/as by thynges accydentall.

**C**ferther thy body/to make it moyste and fat.  
After this sentence, folowe this doctryne.  
Moche slepe wyll kepe the/in hygb stat.  
Metysswete/and wyne lycourte deuyne.  
Merydyn teste/mylke whyte and argentyne.  
All good hodoures/and floures after theyt tyme.  
With swete bathes/of herbys good and fyne.

**C**Deysse thy tyme/nombre it parfyghtly.  
And in the bathe/be nat ouer longe.  
Tyme contynewyd/wyll feble the body.

And all Joyntes/wyll weyke whiche be stronge.  
Drynke no wyne/but water be there amonge.  
And in wynter/take water of alchymyng.  
Whiche hoot is of nature/to put in thy wyne.

**C**he malowe in somer/and eke violente flouts.  
Whiche of nature/be colde of trouth and ryght.  
To speke playne/and vse none colours.  
Frome corrupte humours/maketh the body lyght.  
Ones in the moneth/to haue a bomyght.  
Pourgeth the stomake/maketh it pure and clene.  
That no corruption/therin may be sene.

**C**ferther be it knowe/to thy magnyfycence.  
That this bomyth/restozeth hete naturall.  
If it be do/without bvolence.  
And these comodytees/causeth in especyall.  
Moystnesse good grees/well to defye withall.  
Understandyngre reason/gloze and gladnesse.  
Of thyne enmyes/victoze expelleth all heuynesse.

**C**If thou wylt be hole/kepe the fro syknesse.  
And resyste the stroke of aduersyte.  
Loue to se playes/boyde all heuynesse.  
And put delyght/in these thynges thre.  
Fayre men and women/be delictable to the.  
To beholde on thy body/clene clothynge.  
And of antyquyte/to se and rede wrytynge.

**C**here Arystotle wrytte in a Pyffyll to alysaundre  
tho thyngs whiche enfebleþ body & make it dypre.

**S**Done set a preef/in thy prudent auyse.  
To ete and dynke/by attemperaunce  
For after the sentence/of Phylosophers wylle.  
The body done feble/and sette in pertbaunce.  
So ete lytell/and dynke without gouernance.  
Slepe before mete/ouer moche to trauaylle.  
With serynge wrothe/gretly done disuaylle.

**C**And whoso wyl/breely in sentence.  
Gone agayne myght/doute or it be nede.  
To eche tale/gyue hasty credence.  
Often gone to chambre/ouer often to blede.  
With salte metys/lyste hym selfe fede  
Or dynke olde wyne/in grete foyson.  
Dothe dynke his blode/by naturall disposition.

**C**In water also/contagious of nature.  
Be nat bathed/in none degre.  
The kynde of brymstone/is peryllous A the sure.  
And full repleshyd/A exhorte the.  
Fleschely lustes/to flee.  
Rennynge after mete/also rydynge.  
Whiche cause wyl/a syknesse callyd quakyng.

**C**In ettyng of fylle/make no contynuance.  
For after the sentence/of expert ypoctase.  
Fylle the complexion/putteth to barynance.  
And pure blode/cozruptyth in shorte space.  
Medlyd with mylke/causeth body and face.  
With lepre to be smyteth/through disposition.  
Of vnykynde humours/by inward corruption.

**C**howe the body is deuyded in foure  
partes and whiche they be. **CC**

**O** Wysaundre/peyse in ballaunce.  
Howe pryncypall partes/foure there be  
In mannes body/whiche for remembraunce.  
And auayle to thyne/magnanymyte.  
Shall entytle/and gyue superfluyte.  
Of euyll humowres/so ony of them inclyne.  
I shall the teche/a specyall medycyne.

**C** Of these secretes/to gyue cognpcion.  
The firste membre/this materre to applye.  
Where power organycall/use theyr operacion.  
Is the heed/wherin the fourth partie.  
Set in resydence/is the fantasye.  
And nexte in ordre/Imagynacion.  
With mynde remembraunce/and estymacion.

**C** If superfluyte/or ony euyll humoures.  
Of qualytees/gendre/by in propozcion.  
In the heed/be sygnes and coloures.  
Knowe thou shal/this indisposycyon.  
By this doctryne/and instruccyon.  
The eyen dymme/the browes waxe grete.  
The nose thryllys shynke/the templs downe bete.

**C** This to recure/a souereyne medycyne.  
Is aloes/as say doctours of fame.  
Soze boyled/in dorset and swete wyne.  
With a rote of whiche is the name.

**B**ulgichyn/whiche boylle muste in same.  
Tyll tyme the wyne/halfe wastyd be.  
Whiche than thus vſed/is profytable to the.

**C**Take these herbis/souereyne and entyer.  
Into thy mouthe/with the swete lycours.  
And them close there/in dewe maner.  
Whiche distroye shall/eche corrupt humours.  
And kepe them there/tyll tyme thou sauours.  
Of amendynge/the comodyte.  
And expulcion/of superfluyte.

**C**ferther to gyue the/enformacyon.  
Of mustarde whyte/the seede is profytable.  
Grounde to pouder/for conseruacion.  
Receyued in tyme/a quantite mesurable.  
And if thou be necligent/and vnstable.  
In these thynges/thou shalt haue grete malady.  
In eyen and brayne/enspeciallly.

**C**The seconde pryncipall parte of the body.

**T**he seconde parte this mater to conbyne.  
Is the breste/whiche yeueth syknesse.  
Do enſeble/in degree or sygne.  
Tokens fourre/to the shall it expresse.  
Tonge lettyd mouthe salt/with byttenesse.  
Or ouer swete of stomake/the mouthe eager.  
Ache in membrys/in eche season or wedder.

**C**for breste thus brolyd/vse this medycyne.  
E.i.

**L**ytell to ete/s good phesyke.  
To make vomyth/after in doctryne.  
**S**ugre toset/with aloes mastyke.  
Well chawed/as saye doctours antentyke.  
Receyued in tyme/proportion and measure.  
**O**f unkouth syknesse/the breste done recure.

**C**and if so be/that these doth the faylle.  
Take some spyce/good and confortatife.  
Whiche to the appetyghte/gretly doth auaylle.  
And the body/conserueth in gode lyfe.  
Causeth peas/where was debate and stryfe.  
All corrupte humours/expelleth echoon.  
With aleuarie/called diouyston.

**C**in fourte wyses/thou shalt haue grete peynes.  
If my counsaylle/thou refuse in this partye.  
**S**harpe feuers/ache in heed and reynes.  
Enpesshement/the trouthe to specysye.  
Properly to speke/the tonge dothe denye.  
And is occasion/auctours bere wytnesse.  
**O**f many unkouth/and straunge syknesse.

### **C**The thirde pryncypall partye of the body.

**T**he thirde partye/to speke i termys playne.  
**T**is the wombe/in the body naturall.  
Whiche pef euyll in degré/o/ sygne conteyne.  
Knowe thou mayste/by these thynges in especyall.  
Rednesse in the kne/the wombe bolnyth withall.  
**O**f kynde causeth/to gone heuely.

Agayne whiche these medycynes/ take for remedy.

**C**Receyue in warde/some lyght purgacion.  
Whiche suttill and lyght is of nature.  
And of the breste/the conseruacion.  
Also sayde also/wyll it recure  
And if thou leue/these medycynes I the sure.  
As olde phylosophers/clerely doth expresse.  
In many folde cause/it wyll syknesse.

**C**ache in the rottle/and eke in the haunches.  
In backe ioyntes/and also reynes.  
With the flyre/and many other braunches.  
Guyll dygestyon/with other dyuers peynes.  
This sheweth erþyence/whiche neuer feynes.  
Moder of cunnynghe/and chefe maystresse.  
As olde phylosophers/in wþrynghe bere wytnesse.

**C**Of the fourthe pryncypall party of the body.

**C**He fourth party/ this matere to termyne.  
Is the genytall/founde in certayne.  
Unto whiche/it corrupcion do enclyne.  
These be sygnes/as phylosophers sayne.  
Mete to receyue/the stomake doth disdayne.  
To Coyllons and zerde/rednesse doth resorte.  
Agayne whiche these medycynes/doth conforste.

**C**In herbe namyd apus/breely to expresse.  
With seede of fenell/is profitable to the.  
Of atcheunle the rote/acheen and atractes.

E.ii.

Whiche thus disposeth this syknesse to make flee.  
The herbe the roote/put togyder all thre.  
With whyte wyne drynke it/in the mornynge.  
From syknesse in genitall/kepe soget and kynge.

**C**ferther be it knowe/to thy magnyfcence.  
That water with wyne/take in smale quantyte.  
Lytell to ete mesuryd/by prudence.  
Amonge other/is profitable to the.  
And if this doctrine/of the dispysed be.  
Thou shalt renne/in ache of the bladder.  
Whiche of the stone/syknesse soone gadder.

**C**an ensample howe a kynge shulde be in quissityf to  
knowe dypuers oppynyons of Lechis or physiciens.

**E**erther I haue radde/in stoyres of aneyquite.  
Howe to a semble/made a myghty kynge.  
All physiciens/hyest of auctorite.  
Of ynde and Grece/them streyghtly cōmaundyng.  
One medycyne to teche/whiche agayne all thyng.  
Fayous to the body/were suffycyent.  
To whome the Grecis/thus layde their entent.

**C**Who in helthe/to perseuere wyll be sure.  
And conserue the hete/naturall.  
Without langoure/longe to endure.  
Hote water to drynke hym doth befall.  
The mouthe replessyng/by propotion equall.  
Tymes thre/in auroza fastynge.  
Erly to drynke/is moost medycynable thyng.

**C**The phesyciens of ynde in theyr oppynyon.

Sayde that medycyne/moost profitable.

Was to vse/in dewe proportion.

Wylke wylte/with mascurſu thynges medycynable

Receyued fastynge/moost auayllable.

Man to conserue/in prosperite and welthe.

Good in warde/disposition and bodely helthe.

**C**But knowe alysaunder/and peyse in ballaunce.

That in this doctrine/myne oppynyon.

Cleerly to entytle/in thy remembraunce.

Breely is this/for full conclusion.

Who slepeth well/by naturall reason.

Tyll wombe auoyde/poudorolyste.

Excludyng syknesse/scant in lyberte.

**C**Slepe receyued/in tyme and measure.

As reaon preuyth/and experiance.

From these syknesses/the body dothe recure.

Whiche preuyd is/by physchall prudence.

Pally and gowte/comynge of negligencie.

Ache from the wombe/and Ioyntes echone.

From tremblyng/ꝝ quakyng kepereth membre ꝝ bone

**C**And he that vleth in morowe/these thre thynges.

Alibi aurei thre dragmys/in substaunce.

Une passes/or good swete reysynges.

Offlewine in warde/shall haue no perturbaunce.

The mynde hool/excludyng varyaunce.

Shall be of kynde/and ignoraunce disdeyne.

The body free/from the feuer quarteyne.

E.111.

**C**ferther to entytel in the audyth countable.  
Of thyne remembraunce/secretes of my doctryne.  
Nottis to ete and syggys is profytale.  
O: leuys of rewe/agreable and fyne.  
Agayne all venyme/souereygne medycyne.  
And b̄reely to conculde/in especiall.  
All these consecrue/the hete naturall.

**C**how profytale it is to knowe dyuersyte  
of kyndes of metys and dynkes. ☰

**E**ther alysaundre/be it knowe to the.  
That profytale is/in specyall to a kyng.  
Of metes and dynkes/knowe dyuersyte.  
With propozcion and tyme/of receyuyng.  
For after the sentence/of phylosophers w̄ytyng.  
Some are subtyll/some groos by nature.  
Other atwene bothe/in meane kepe measure.

**C**Blode pure engendre/and enlumyne.  
Metes smale/and subtyll in substaunce.  
As whete hennys/chekenys good and fyne.  
The body nouryshe/the stomake kepe fro greuaunce  
Groos metis/make no perturbaunce.  
In laboutyng/men/whiche may them defye.  
In other engender/malyncolye.

**C**Whiche atwene bothe/kepe their measure.  
As physiciens w̄yte/of auctorite.  
Engender no fleyme/by kynde of their nature.  
Re of humours/superfluyte.

As grete motowne and other that be.  
Hote and moyste in theyr operacion.  
Moost indifferent to eche complexion.

**C**Howe be it that somtyme in certeyne.  
These flesches by kynde/make wombe harde & drye.  
It newly rostyd/receyued and newly slayne.  
Take fro the spete/and eate hastelye.  
They be holsome/reason doth it not denye.  
And brefly to conclude/this matere in sentence.  
Of fysshes the kynde/is lyke to experiance.

**C**The fyssh he lytell/and of sotyll skyn.  
Nourysshed in water/sweete and rennyng.  
I meane as perche/with sharpe syne.  
Be moost holsome/to man them receyuyng.  
And in dedde water/both of olde and yonge.  
Fyssh the nourysshed/is vnproufytal.  
And vnto kynde/not auaylable.

**C**Of knowynge of waters and whiche  
be moost profytal.

**C**hou oughtest to wete/þ water is profytal  
Here in erthe/to eche creature.  
To man woman/and beest vntesonable.  
Whiche from corruption/the body doth recure.  
Renninge from hylle/and erthe whiche is pure.  
Or nere to cytees/styllynge as petlys rounde.  
Passynge holsom/wher none metchys do none haboude

**W**ater also, whiche that is moost lyght.  
Sweete or bytter, in eche degré and sygne.  
From the see compyng, of crowthe and ryght.  
Through hygh hyllys, as perle argentyne.  
Knowe may be, whan they be good and fyne.  
By sygnes syre, folowynge insentence.  
Prouyd by reason, and exertyence.

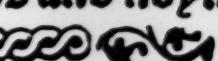
**L**yght of nature, to make repetycion.  
Clere therwith, and of good odoure.  
Soone hoot soone colde, by dyuers operacion.  
Without corruption, and of good sauoure.  
Whyte also, and of bryght colore.  
Of whiche the contrarie, by pollytyk prudence.  
Thus knowe thou mayste, by exertyence.

**O**ffleppynge wapours wattrys in certayne.  
Salte bytter and fumous, the wombe doth dye.  
In lowe valeyes also, whiche be playne.  
Be hoot and heuy, crowthe to speefye  
Where strenghe of phebus, reneweth his partye.  
And wattrys their places, kepe as they began.  
Of them to dynke, causeth Coleram nigrum.

**W**aters that renne, by many dyuers londes.  
Be hoot, greuous, unholosome and heuy.  
Whiche crage haue, of foreyn dyuers sondes.  
As by exertyence, p[re]cuyd is redely.  
Who dynketh water, febleth his body.  
Afore mete of stomeke, withdraweth the hete.  
And of fleyme, man maketh replete.

**C**as olde phylosphers/acco<sup>r</sup>de all in one.  
**S**lepe is noyse/of degestyon.  
**T**o dynke water/as they say echone.  
At mete contynually/causeth corruption.  
In the stomake/and is occacion.  
Of heuynesse slouthe/and dyssturbance.  
Whiche putteth a man out of good gouernaunce.

**C**Thou oughtest to dynke in somer water colde.  
Namely whan phebus/is in his hyghe degré.  
Luke warme in wynter/in pheslyke as it is tolde.  
Amonge other/is profitable to the.  
For as doctours recorde/of auctorite.  
Colde in wynter/in euery maner wyght.  
And hote in somer/distroye the appetyght.

**C**Of knowynge of wynes and noynges  
and bountes of them. 

**S**One alysaundre/in the secrees dyuyne.  
For chaunge/of complexions by dynesse or hym  
Profitable is/in eche degré and sygne. (mydyte.  
Of wyne to knowe/the werkynge & the properete.  
Whiche receyued/where is nessessyte.  
And tyme requeryth/after my doctrine.  
Agayne all syknesse/is souereygne medycyne.

**C**Wyne of the grape/whiche groweth euyn hysght  
Agayne hyllys to/synguler conforte.  
Where as phebus/with flamynge demys bryght.  
Dayly vprysyng/newely dothe resorte.

Is more drye after/phylosophers reporte.  
Than other/whiche groweth naturally.  
In places playne/moyste and shadewy.

**C** The firsste to flewmatyke/as folke in olde age.  
Sretely dothe prophyghte/take by attemperaunce.  
Hote and yonge/putteth to damage.  
In olde mysse humours/restoresh to gouernauce.  
Superfluytes/and all disturbance.  
Putteth to flyght/and sheweth to exgent.  
Bycause it is/to their nature conuenyent.

**C** Wyne moste rede/and thykke by kynde.  
Engendreth good blode/as auctours reporte.  
Whiche stronge and myghty/dulleth the mynde:  
Take out of measure/do not conforde.  
Corrupte humours/causeth to resorte.  
To eche membre/breely to expresse.  
Foyeth the stomake/reyleth/wyndynesse.

**C** To eche complexion/of mannes nature.  
Moste medycynable/and lycour indeferent.  
Is of the grape/whiche groweth in the lute.  
In large feldes/them conuenyent.  
Stretchyd abrode/without impedymant.  
With hylle and baleyes/enuyronyd aboute.  
Gadred in tyme/beste lycoure withouten doute.

**C** Breely as thus/to expresse what I mene.  
Loke they be rype/and of good swetnesse.  
Stronge in substaunce/no greynesse let be sene.

From the stocke/exclude all moistnesse.  
End of this doctryne/to haue mo<sup>r</sup>e redynesse.  
Loke wyne of the grape/a lytell departyd be.  
From the kernell/for lacke of humedyte.

¶ Wyne holsome also/oughteth to be of coloure.  
So at wene reed/and golde fyne.  
Ponyaunt delictable/sharpe in sauoure.  
Thykke at the bottome/of coloure Cytryne.  
Aboue clere/whiche lycoure dyuyne.  
Recepued in tyme/and mesurably.  
Excludynge dysease/conforzeth the body.

¶ Ferther alysaundre/to expresse what I mene.  
Knowe and entytle/in thy remembraunce.  
That wyne good propertees/hath fourtene.  
Of olde phylosophers/payled in ballaunce.  
Enforzynge the stomake/excludeth perturbaunce.  
Fortyfyneth the heete/in the body naturall.  
Good dygestyon/causeth me specyall.

¶ Conseruyth the stomake/from corrupcion.  
By all the membris/the mete dothe lede.  
Whiche conuerteth/by transmutacion.  
Chaungyd to noysshynge/the body doth fedde.  
With pure blode/of this matere take hede.  
Maketh to aryle/the hete by measure.  
From the stomake/to brayne by nature.

¶ Euyll humours destroyeth/þ colour maketh rede.  
Conforzeth cozages/claryfyeth the syght.

The tonge eloquent/and delyuer in the hede.  
From fretynge malencolye/maketh the body lyght.  
Causeth good appetyte/maketh hardy to syght.  
But these be vnderstante/breely I the sure.  
Of wyne receyued/in tyme and measure.

CAnd knowe alysaundre/that wyne outragiously.  
Out of tyme receyued/and measure.  
Of these comodytees/cause contrary.  
And the body longe/to endure.  
Do nat permittē/in gode chaunce and measure.  
But more of syknesse/causeth abundaunce.  
Than wyne measuryd/comodytees in substaunce.

Tokens also/of phesylke and medycynes.  
By a maner/of comparyson.  
Betwene the renbarbe/gode and holsome wynes.  
Thus syknesse make/indispcion.  
As the renbarbe/holsome of condycion.  
Take out of measure/is deedly and benym.  
For shorte conclusion/so holsome is wyn.

CHere spesially prayseth wyne I techyth a me-  
dycynge/agayne dronkennesse of hit. ∞

IA sentence breef/to wryte in termys playne.  
Suryppis bytter/be profytable to the.  
Full oþ fastynge/receyued in certayne.  
Of humours oþ flewme/whan superfluyte.  
Done habundaunce/in sygne oþ degree.  
Whiche in the body/cause corruption.

**O**f qualtees shulde be in proportion.

**C**ferther I meruaylle/in my oppynyon.  
Howe man compyled / and made of four humours.  
May be syke/or tende to corruptyon.  
Whyle he may haue/speciall thre socours.  
Good brede of whete/fleshe that well sauours.  
Ofterage and stocke/gode and holsome wyne.  
Receyued in measure/lycour moste deuyne.

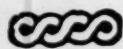
**C**Contrarye be of nature/to these thre.  
Moche to ete/ouer moche to trauaylle.  
Dyynke to receyue/in superfluyte.  
Of the body ethe membre/doth disuaylle.  
But if these/the body doth assaylle.  
And of dyynke/superfluyte specially.  
By suttyll meanes/vse this remedy.

**C**firste to be wasshe/is profytale thyng.  
In water boyled/hoot and temperat.  
After ouer a ryuer/rennyng.  
To be set arrayed/lyke to thyne astat.  
With salues oyllys/enuyronnyd preparat.  
After the stomake/anoynted with all.  
With onyment/called sandall.

**C**Physiciens also/preue by prudence.  
Howe nozyllyng/that tyme is the sauour.  
To nature of good spyces/and incence.  
Mesuryd in tyme by dylygent laboure.  
And who of wyne/lyst to leus socoure.

**f.i.**

Hym behouyth by succession cedely.  
It to leue and not lodeynly.



**C**Of the ryghtwysnesse of a kynge.  
and of his counsaylle.

**E**ither alysaudre/gyue aduertence.  
Though of accorde/pylosophers expresse.  
To a prynce hyghe/magnyfycence.  
Thynge celestyall/is ryghtwysnesse.  
Made to conserue/the blode and rychesse.  
Of his subgiettis/possessyons and werkes.  
In whiche his regalye/scant assay clerkes.

**C**from god sent/for his creatures.  
Ryghtwysnesse namyd/sharpe of intellygence.  
In subgiettis obresaunt/souereygne recutes.  
Whiche doth causeth/groundyd on prudencie.  
Sent was/noote this sentence.  
Unto prynces/to conserue from pylage.  
All subgiettis/extortion and damage.

**C**Men of ynde/in their oppynyon.  
For this concludyd/wzptynge beryth wytnesse.  
Of a prynce/for bzeef conclusion.  
To his subgiettis/better is ryghtwysnesse.  
Than habundawice/ox plente of rychesse.  
In the realme/and moze auayllable  
Than rayne from heuen/a kynge resonable.

**C**And for they shulde make no dissenaunce.  
But theyt kynge and ryghtwysnesse/joyne in one.  
At wene them they madc/affaunce.  
Whiche was this wrytte/in a matbyll ston.  
Without ryghtwysnesse/prynce may be none.  
And breely to wryte/without superfluyte.  
Ryght and the kynge/as bretherne owne to be.

**C**It is to the/also grete auaylle.  
And accordyng/e to thyne magnyfycence.  
Oppynyns to here/of thy counsaylle.  
And benygnely/to gyue audyence.  
To theyt counsaylle/gyue aduertence.  
Intytle and rolle/echē oppynyon.  
In thy remembraunce/but ferne this conclusion.

**C**Thyne entent/do not expresse.  
Whiche thou haste/at the begynnyng.  
For thou oughtest/of verray ryghtwysnesse.  
Therof be blamyd/as wytnesseth wrytyng.  
Kepe tonge in mewe/be cloos in werkynge.  
Cyll tyme thou be/in purpose for auaylle.  
In effect/to folowe their counsaylle.

**C**Conceyue counsayll/peyse it in ballaunce.  
Of eche parson/hyghe or lowe degré.  
Whiche do the Juge/without bryaunce.  
For moste loue/whiche he hathe to the.  
And whan all thynges/deternyned be.  
By thy counsaylle/them put to execucion.  
For to a realme/delayes cause destruccion.

**C**o make delayes/namely tyme of nedē.  
Is grete perryll/as phylosophers dywylle.  
Of tender in age/to this mater take hede.  
Prudent counsaylle/loke thou nat despysse.  
To some of nature/be prouydent and wylle.  
Some folkes/by disposition.  
After theyr tyme/and constellacion.

**C**his to conclude/wrytyngē fynde.  
A lykenesse prouyd/by expertynce.  
Of an enfaunt,in the countre of ynde.  
Boze in a place/where men of intellygence.  
Herbozowed were/whiche gyuyngē aduertence.  
Of this childe/to eche propozcion.  
This dome gauē/by naturall reason.

**C**Boze he was/vnder suchē sygne.  
Constellacion/and planette delitable.  
That he shulde enclyne/to doctryne.  
Be lyght of membris/curtoysē and amyble.  
Loud of states/to counsayll auayllable.  
Of seuen sciences/hauyngē in syght clere.  
Whose fader of weuyngē/was an arryfycere.

**C**Yme passyd/this childe grewe to age.  
Well propozcionyd/in membris erganycall.  
Whom his fader/for worldly auantage.  
Bonde and disposed/to crafte mechanycall.  
But this enfaunt/for nothyngē myght befall.  
Letne myght/me for correccyon.  
Bycause it was/agayne disposition.

**C**They toke awaþe the brydell/of arrest.  
Hym parmyttynge/to folowe his owne entent.  
He sette his herete/to byde with the wyllest.  
Of that countre/and moþte prudent.  
Whiche in laboure/wolde be dylygent.  
Hym to enforþme/in scyence by lecture.  
The kynde of thynges/conteyned by nature.

**C**The meuynges/of þ firmamēt & all other thynges.  
Under nature/he leþned redely.  
Good maners also/to gouernance of a kynge.  
And by his wyldam/and scyence synally.  
Bycause he was/trustyd specially.  
He had the rewle/and disposition.  
Of the kynge/and all his regyon.

**C**Contrarye to this/in wþytyng I synde.  
Hewe a noble/and a royll kynge.  
Two chilðren had/in the londe of þynde.  
Of whiche whan one/came to growynge.  
He was sette/to lyberall cunnynghe.  
Taught by maystres/of hyghe auctorite.  
As apperteyned/to his dignyte.

**C**But in that part he was vñsteteable.  
Mayster ne fader/myght no thyng awaylle.  
Science nor crafte,to hym was delictable.  
But to forȝe/mallyable metaylle.  
Put no delyght/in counterfete apperaylle.  
But disposed/in yonge and tender age.  
As childe boþe/of hyle and smale lynage.

F. III.

**T**he kynges stonped/gretly in this party.  
Of his realme/assemblyd in presence.  
All grettel clerkes/comaundyng streyghtly.  
That they shulde do/theyr entyer dylygence.  
Hym to enforme/by theyt scponce.  
Why his sone/of disposition.  
**S**aue only to forge,wolde take none informacion.

**C**in theyr oppynyon/they cordyd all in one.  
And soone this answere/so full conclusion.  
Of his nature/what enfaunt that were borne.  
In that sygne/or constellacion.  
He shulde be/of naturall reason.  
Disposyd that crafte/o only to bse.  
And all other/bitterly refuse.

**C**These experimentis/o we to meue a kyng.  
Not to despysse/a man I the sure.  
Lytell of stede/and lytell of g towynge.  
But after he spryngeth/in vertue and nurture.  
**S**o hym to cherysshe/oughteth of nature.  
Whether he be/of lowe or highe dege.  
A kynges flowrysshynge/in excellent dignyte.

**C**he oughteth to be louyd/that byces wyll eschewe  
Whiche louerh truwthe/and counseylleth trewely.  
To the thy subgiettis/stedfast iuste and trewe.  
And of thy wyll/somtyme the contrary.  
Whiche doth nat space/to tell the forthe fully.  
To his counsayll/gyue affyance.  
Whiche in thy realme/cause wyll good gouernance

**C**ondre thy materys/after theyt substance.  
Sette nat the laste/there the firsste shulde be.  
In all nedes/with dewe circumstaunce.  
To vse counsaylle/ is profytalbe to the.  
With prepur counceyllours/prudent and secre.  
For good counsayll/more dothe auaylle.  
Than of people/grete puyssance in bataylle.

**C**for this entent/in wrytynge as I rede.  
A grete man wyle/and prouydent.  
Whoos dwellynge was/in the realme of mede.  
A letter wrote/and to his sonne it sent.  
Of whiche the tenoute/and the consent.  
With the prohemye/and conclusion.  
This was without/batyacion.

**C**onfesonc it is nede in all werkes.  
To haue counsaylle/for thou arte but one man.  
Of qualytees/contrary/compyled as say clerkes.  
Wherfore thy counsayll/take of them that can.  
The directe/by polityk wylde.  
In eche meuyng/ habyte or passion.  
The to reduce/by good discretion.

**C**from thyne enemy/I counsayll the be sure.  
Shewe thy power/and thy victorye.  
Upon hym/thy ryght to recure.  
But I the monysshē/firsste and pryncypally.  
From hym to flee/in tyme prudently.  
Put none confydence/in the gretnesse.  
Of thyne prerogatyf/and excellent hyghnesse.

**C**Take counsaylle/in thought do not muse.  
As it pleaseþ/so it receyue.  
The beste accept/badde to refuse.  
Who foloweth thy wþll/the shall disceyue.  
Werle smyte flaterynge/than polar or gleyue.  
Wherfore parcepue/by logicall reason.  
That vnder good floures/testeth the scorþion.

**C**Besad of chere/playe nat the enfaunt.  
In answere prudent/wyse and nat chaungeable.  
One synguler man/to make thy lyf tenaunt.  
To the noþ thyne/is nat auayllable.  
For if he be wrood/and vntretable.  
He may in his furþous cruelle.  
Thy people/thy realme/destroy and also the.

**C**Ferthermore fone/take heede to my doctrine.  
To haue offycers/is profytable to the.  
Thy worshyppe and p; ofyghte/for to maynteyne.  
And if thou wylte/lerne this of me.  
Preue thyne offycer/of hyghe or lowe degré.  
By styll meanes/vse perluacion.  
And than fynally/take this conclusion.

**C**Make compleynþe/she we grete heuynesse.  
Fayne the nedþ/take hym to the nere.  
By styll meanes/thy conceyce to expresse.  
Is to thy frende/touche thyne offycere.  
And if he counsaylle/to cheueth spluere.  
Of thy to wellys/or thyne treasoure.  
He is trewe/and louerþ thyne honoure.

**C**If he caste or gynne/to counte thy dettis.  
It is sygne of grete/prouydence.  
Fals and vntrewe/if of thy subgettis.  
Goodes to receyue/he gyue aduerttence.  
And if he offre/of polityk prudence.  
Parte of rychesse/get in thy seruyce.  
He is so trewe/no good may hym meynypysse.

**C**Comende that offycer/in thyne oppynyon.  
As hym that loueth/more prosperite.  
Unyuersell/of thy regyon.  
Than pypuat auaylle/to his syngulare.  
Sygne of good soget/take this auctorite.  
Is whan he dothe/for thy hygh honour.  
Moore than his charge/to thy synguler pleasour.

**C**And truste nat on hym/of dyscretion.  
Whiche in treasure/putteth his delyght.  
With herte mynde/hath detectacion.  
Good to gadre/whether it be wronge or ryght.  
Of whom groweth euer/the appetyght.  
In grete rychesse/and mony to abounde.  
Whiche as a depnesse/is without grounde.

**C**Gyue no credence/to suche a offycer.  
That is corruptyd/in his affeccyon.  
For he wyl redely/seke matere.  
And soone consent/to thy destruccyon.  
Tretyng with lordes/me cognycyon.  
Let hym none haue/and if he this offendre.  
Out of thy presence/hym hterly suspende.

**C**loue that offycer/ of hool herte and entyer.  
Whiche the louyth/ and is aye treable.  
To thy subgietis/take hede of this mateer.  
Them to make/to the agreeable.  
From thy seruyce/whiche is not permutable.  
In whom also/these vertues may be sene.  
By computacion/followynge here systene.

**C**in membris perfyghte/well to trauaylle.  
In thyne offyce/hym comytyd to.  
Swyfte vnderstandyng/e/gretely doth auaylle.  
With redy conceypte/where men haue to do.  
That hym is charged/to execusion also.  
Soone to put/curyey s and doughty.  
Fayre speker/without flatery.

**C**Groundyd in scyence/and a good clerke.  
Trewe of his behest/hatyng/lesynges.  
Gentyll of condicions/treable in eche werke.  
Well mesuryd/speciallly in two thynges.  
Mete and dynke/for aboute kynges  
Insatiable glotonye/is detestable.  
In conuenant/and abhomynable.

**C**That the loue worshyppe/ and encrease.  
Aboue all thynges/to thy goodlyhede.  
To gadre golde/leue besynesse.  
For as afore rehersyd/thou mayste rede.  
Suche an offycer/in tyme of nede.  
Wyll be enclyned/by persuacion.  
The to destroye/for ambycion.

**C**That he loue the preuy and estrange.  
Men of worshyppe/put to reuerence.  
Whiche for corruption/trewthe wyl nat chaunge.  
But to eche/be polityk prudence.  
Graunte his laboure/and his dylgence.  
To socoure them/whiche greyd be in dispence.  
Without carnalyte/makynge no difference.

**C**In his purpose/stronge and perseuerant.  
Withouten dzedde/to se thyne auaylle.  
Meke of condicions/and no tyraunt.  
Of thyne rentis/knowynge the rebelsaylle.  
Secrette in werkynge/sharpe in trauaylle.  
From grete spekyng/hym keþeth discretly.  
For moche spekyng/is sygne of fooly.

**C**In moche laughter/that not abounde.  
To thy subgiettis/gracious and benyngne.  
Of reporte aye/that he be founde.  
Trewre and stable/in eche degre and sygne.  
Amonge the people/trewthe to maynteyne.  
To symple also/ffsupporcion.  
And them correcte/whiche vse extencion.

**C**It is to be tytlyd / howe preuyd without obſt.  
As olde phylosophers/put in remembraunce.  
That in man is founde/grete myracle.  
Namyd the lytell worlde/by auctours allegaunce.  
For many vncouthe/and dyuers circumstaunce.  
Founde in hym/moste souereyne creature.  
Named beste resonable/by intellygence in sure.

**C**he is hardy as a Lyon/dredfull as the hare.  
Large as the cokke/and as an hounde coueytous.  
Harte as an harte in forest whiche doth fare.  
Burum as the turtyll/as lyonnesse dispytous.  
Symples as the lambe/lyke the fox malycious.  
Swyfte as the roo/as bere slaught in tarpenge.  
And lyke the Olfauant/precious in eche thyngē.

**C**As the asse vyle/and contagious.  
As a lytell kynge/hasty and rebelle.  
Chaste as aungell/as swyne lecherous.  
Meke as the pecok/and as a bull wood and felle.  
Profytable as the bee/in his hyue which is his celle.  
Fayre as the hors/as the owle malycious.  
Dowme as the fyssh/and as a mowse noyous.

**C**Note this processe/in audyght countable:  
Of thy remembraunce/and knowe redely.  
That in beest/noȝ thyngē vegytable.  
Noȝ thyngē/may be vnyuersally.  
But if it be founde/naturally.  
In mannes nature/wherfore of one accorde.  
Olde phylosophers/called hym the lytell woldē.

### **C**Of a kynge's secretarye.

**H**Erthat alysaundre/conceyue in thyne entent.  
Thy preuy wylle men/for to vnderstande.  
In speche fayre/in langage prudent.  
Gaye in endyngē/fayre wryter with hande.  
Loke they be/and ferther in thy lande.

Loke the wryter of thy decrees.  
In p̄cuy place wylsely kepe thy secrees.

**C**lyke as a robe/fayre of grete rychedesse.  
Worshyppeth the body/of a myghty kyng.  
So fayre langage/trowthe to expresse.  
Worshyppeth a letter/with gode endytyng.  
Loke thy secretarie/conceyue in all thyng.  
Thyne entent/and it redely.  
To execucion/than put wylstyly.

**C**Thy hyghnesse also/for to enhaunse.  
And thy magnyfycence/lerne this of me.  
With grete rewardest/do them auaunse.  
After theyr merytes/and theyr degré.  
Whiche are all dayes/besy and wakynge be.  
In thy needes/for in them scant the waryson.  
Of thy worshypppe/thy lyfe or thy destruccyon.

**C**What a kynges messagere ought to be.

**E**ther alysaundre/to spedē thy materys.  
For auaylle/enforse thy corage.  
For to haue swyfte/messangerys.  
Wyse redy/experte in langage.  
Moste suffycyent/for thy auaantage.  
For a messenger/as phylosopher's recorde.  
Is the eye the eere/and the toungue of his lordē.

**C**His iourney lette/whiche lyft for rayne neshoute.  
To whom thou mayste/thy wyll buncute.

G.i.

Whiche the louyfth/and thyne honoure.  
And if thou ne may/of suche one be sure.  
At the leste/gentyll and demure.  
Loke he be whiche/well and faychfully.  
Can bere a letter/and reporte truely.

**C**hakyl of tunge/ox moche whiche doth muse.  
To gette gyftis/what tyme he is sent.  
On thy message/hym biterly refuse.  
And ferthermore/neuer biter thyne entent.  
To hym whiche wyll be/impotent.  
In all membris/be outragous dronkennesse.  
For more than he knoweth/suche one wyll expresse.

**C**ferther by prudence/entytle this mater.  
And it rolle/in thy noble mynde.  
That hyghe a stafe/ne grete offycer.  
On thy message/thou vse fox to sende.  
For if he to treason/condiscende.  
Of the and thy realme/he may be destruccyon.  
Whose punyfhemēt/I remytte to thy discretion.

**C**Of equipacion of sogettis/ꝝ cōseruacion of Justice.

**C**Onceyue dere sone/how þ hous of thy mynde.  
Be thy subgiettis/and the treasoure.  
By whiche thy realme/conservyd as I fynde.  
Do the contynewe/in grete and hyghe honoure.  
Lyke a gardeyne/of redolent sauoure.  
Aboundyngē/in dyuers frountis and trees.  
Whiche graffyd on stokkis/by braunchys encreegs.

**C**The braunchys breste, the fruyte doth multiplye.  
And in case lyke, and comparable.  
Of power excellent, treuthe to speefye.  
And of a realme, treasoure pardutable.  
By the prudence, famous and agreeable.  
Of the comones, by pollytyk leuyng.  
Growe all vertues, to worshyppe of a kynge.

**C**In werke worde, and all theyr dedes.  
To be mesuryd, is couenable.  
From felonye, and wonge in all their nedes.  
Them to diffende, to the is profitable.  
People to gouerne, to the is auayllable.  
After custome, and condycyon.  
In their partye, vsed in thy regyon.

**C**To theyr supporste, gyue them an offycer.  
Whiche tendeth not to theyr destruccion.  
Good of condycyon, wyle in eche mater  
In tyme pacyent, vse none extorcion.  
For take this, for full conclucyon.  
If the contrarie, thou doo that I the tell.  
Agayne the thy subgietts, shall rebell.

**C**To encrees of thy courte, and also of thy realme.  
Haue Juges trewe, good and wylle.  
Not partyall, but indifferent meane.  
Whiche for lucte, strouthe wyl nat despyle.  
Preuotaries to haue, I the aduyse.  
Se that the Juges, corrupt of entent.  
Agayne Justyce, gyue the Jugement.

G.11.

## C Of the gouernance of bataylle.

**E**rthe alysaundre/conceyue auaylle.  
That to thyne hyghnesse/it is conuenient.  
Not to contynewe/warre and bataylle.  
In thy pacione/conceyue myne entent.  
For courtyse or enuye to make busshement.  
Or folyly to syghte/for presumptuousnesse.  
Is thyngem temerarie/and no manlynnesse.

**C**Of thy courte/loke thou be dylygent.  
For to here/the comon oppynyon.  
Thy men of armys/dispreyse not of entent.  
But of me/lerne this conclusion.  
Gyue them fayre speche/behoote them waryson.  
And into bataylle/entre nat sodeynly.  
But thou haue armowre/and wepyn necessary.

**C**Upon thyne enemy/renne not sodeynly.  
Ne dispuerteyd/drede not for to fle.  
What tyme thou art/besegyd traytously.  
For diswochyp/to thy magnanymyte.  
It is none leterne this of me.  
Kepe well thy oost/an the logge alwaye.  
Ryghte hyllys/waters and woddes if thou maye.

**C**Haue also grete habundaunce/of bytaylle.  
Moze than the nedeth/by lyklynnesse.  
Fresshe trumpettis/gretely done auaylle.  
Whiche to syghte/gyue grete hardynesse.  
Strengthe vertue/joye and lyghtnesse.

Unto the oost/whiche is on thy partye.  
And by that/many discorde of thyne enemys.

**C**Be not at all tymes/armyd with vnarmure.  
Loke thou be kepte well/with good archerys.  
Some of thy people/to stande fir and sure.  
Other renne vpon/to destroye artbalasterys.  
Fayre behestis/wyll make fell all sterys.  
Wherfore whan thou shalt/entre the bataylle.  
Thy people to conforde/gretely dothe auaylle.

**C**file all hastynesse/in speciall chydyng.  
And if through treason/constreyned thou be to fle.  
To haue good hors/swyste of cennynge.  
Dothe apperteyne/to thyne excellent dignyte.  
Whiche saffe thyne oost/shall and also the.  
For thy conseruacion/if thou resorte.  
To all the puyssauice/gyueth grete conforde.

**C**And if thyne enemys/begynne for to fle.  
Chase them not ouer/hastely.  
Holde all tymme/togydre thy meyne.  
Whiche shall cause the/haue victory.  
Enginys to haue/is speciall remedy.  
If thou assaylle wyll/castell or toure.  
With maysters to myne/and speciall socourte.

**C**Their warters destroye/or ellys enwenympe.  
Exerte in langage/haue explouatourys.  
Them to betraye/by some suttyll engyne.  
And to knowe/all their labourys.

G.111.

Apoynt of warre/though he vnder floutys.  
Of paynted langage/reste the scorppon.  
For a traytoure/to bettaye is no treason.

**C**lerne this conclusion/folowe my doctryne.  
In poynts of warre/take thyne auaylle.  
And if thou may/through grace whiche is dyuyne.  
Without warre/take heve to my counsaylle.  
Gette thyne entent/o; without bataylle.  
Of thyne enemys/thou oughtest as say clerkes.  
For warre shulde be/the laste of thy werkes.

**C**Of the crafte of phisonomie whiche doth treate of  
the qualytees/ and condycyons of cche membre  
of the Image of ypocrasie. 

**E**erther I wyll/thou knowe in this partye.  
The excellent scyence/celestyall and dyuyne.  
Founde by Phylomon/I mene Phisonomie.  
By whiche thou shalt/folowynge my doctryne.  
Knowe disposition/in eche dege and sygne.  
Of all thy people/by pollytyk prudence.  
Whiche folowe sensualyte/and whiche intellygence.

**C**The qualytees to ensurge/and the natures.  
With other craftis/whiche that be secre.  
Power of planetis/in all creatures.  
Dyfformacions/of Circes and mede.  
Lokynge in faces/lerne this of me.  
And of membris/to se proportion.  
Of eche wight/declareth disposition.

**C**In this scyence/Phylomon expert was.  
And in all the partyes/of pholosofye.  
In whose tyme regned/ypocras.  
Expert in pheslyk/and astronomye  
Of whom for purpose/and a fantaspe.  
To preue Phylomon/in his Jugement.  
Disciples of ypocras/this dyd of entent.

**C**Of moste wylle ypocras/they put in pyciture.  
The Image in eche/proportion.  
And to phylomon/they offred that sygure.  
Hym besechyuge/the disposition.  
Them to tell/with qualites and condiccion.  
Of that man/by his experyens.  
Whose sygure they had/their in presens.

**C**Power of planetis/he knewe and eke of sterres.  
And of euery eynly/intellygence.  
Disposition of peas/and eke of warres.  
And of eche straunge/other scyence.  
As the seuen gooddes/be the vt influence.  
Or of naturall body/the transmutacion.  
Of whiche he droue/this conclusion.

**C**This man he sayde/of naturall reason.  
Was a disceyuourte/louyng lecherye.  
For whiche the disciples/in that season.  
Hym to destroye/purposed synallye.  
And hym rebukyng/e with wordes of felonye.  
They sayde sole/this Image raynted was.  
After the sygure/of moste wylle ypocras.

**C**EThis wyle phylosopher/of grete prouydence.  
Them dispisyd/sayenge/on this maner  
With this reason/stonde at his diffence.  
And layde this Image/souereyne and entyr.  
Is of yppocras sygure/bryght and clere.  
Wherfore I gaue you/not informacyon.  
Of actuall dede/but disposicion.

**C**They answere you/they passed his presence.  
And to yppocras/soone relacion.  
Hewe the had/attempted the science.  
Of wyle Phylomon/for his disposicion.  
Whiche conceynghe/his owne complexion.  
Sayde it was trewe/in sykernesse.  
All that of hym/Phylomon dyd expresse.

**C**For this deere sone/I wryte in this partie.  
Rewlys a bregyd/and suffycient.  
In the scyence/of physonomye.  
Whiche to parceyue/loke thou be dylygent.  
In all doughtes/whiche wyl the content.  
To nature perteynynghe/in substance.  
And at wene qualytees/make disceuerance.

**C**In sentence bref/to wryte to thyne honoure.  
And exclude/all superfluyte.  
Man whiche is feble/of coloure.  
For thyne auaylle loke that thou ste.  
For he is/terne this of me.  
To lechery disposed/by nature and kynde.  
And other euplyps/maner as I fynde.

**C**Man whiche that, with wylt and herit.  
Juste stedfaste, and trewe is of nature.  
Out of thy presence, whiche wyl not sterke.  
But to beholde the, delyteth in sure.  
Reed shamefast, wytty and demure.  
whiche with teerys, and syghynge maketh more.  
Whan thou hym blamyst, loueth thy partone.

**C**As from thyne enemy, flee his presence.  
Whiche accomplished, in membris organycall.  
Is not and noote, this sentence.  
To auaylle, of thyne excellencye royall.  
From hym that is, loke thou fall.  
Markyd in vysage, for ferme this conclusion.  
He is disceyuable, by disposition.

**C**Beste of complexion, to eche creature.  
Is brefly to expresse.  
Well proportioned, and of meane stature.  
In eyen and heerys, hauyng blaknesse.  
Coloure meane, at wene whyte and rednesse.  
Uysage rounde, body hole and ryght.  
With meanes of the hede, is good in eche wyght.

**C**Meane in boyls nouther, to hyghe nor base.  
In moche speche, whiche doth none offence.  
Spekyng in tym, and dothe no trespass.  
Unto the Cerys, of the audyence.  
Conueyeth his mateer, by reason and prudence.  
In eche circumstaunce, blyseth discretion.  
Suche a man is beste of complexion.

H. C.

**C**Erys playne/and softe done sygnesye.  
Man to be burum/curteys and kynde.  
Colde of brayne/trouthe to specifye.  
Ind the contrarie/conserue this in mynde.  
As Erys sharpe/and thykke as I synde.  
Be euydent tokens/and sygnes palpable.  
Of a foole nyse/and varyable.

**C**Of heer also/who hath grete quantyte.  
On wombe and breste/he is I the sure.  
Good of condycion/in eche sygne and degré.  
Meruayllous/of complexion & synguler in nature.  
In whose herte/longe doth indure.  
Thynge agayne reason/do vnsaythfully.  
To his rebuke/shame or helony.

**C**Heeris blacke/she we rightwytnesse.  
In a man/and loue/of reason.  
The rede also/be sygne of folynesse.  
Lacke/of prouydence/and discrecion.  
Of fretynge wrothe/without occacion.  
And colour bpt wene bothe/to speke breefly.  
Of pesable man/is sygne and wytty.

**C**Ind he that hath/eyen out of measure.  
Over greate/without proporcyon.  
He is enuyous/of kynde and nature.  
Slowe vnshamefast/without subieccyon.  
At wene bothe/whiche kepe dymencion.  
Of coloure browne/nouther blacke nor wytte.  
Curtoise trewe/and cunnynghe be of ryght.

**C**Eyen longe/and extendyd bysage.  
Sygne be of malyce/and enuye.  
Dull of chere/whiche lyste nat to rage.  
But as the Asse/ever casteth his Eye.  
To the erthe take hede of this partye.  
He is a foole/malycyous vntretable.  
Harde of kynde/and not sociable.

**C**Eyen also/whiche be lyghtly meuyng.  
Wysage longe/without measure.  
Of hasty man/vntrewe and lyenge.  
Be sygnes euydent/and tokens I the sure.  
Coloure rede/causeth of blood pure.  
Is sygne of strengthe/and grete manlynesse.  
Whiche to syghte/gyueth grete hardynesse.

**C**But of this mater/loke thou hede take.  
That woste sygne/in disposition.  
Is whanspottis rede/whyte or blake.  
Mannes eyes/do enuyron.  
Werste of other/without comparyson.  
And who so heer thykke/do bere.  
On the browes/is a shrewd e spekere.

**C**ferther who hathe/moche heer dependyng.  
Bytwene the browes/is a shrewde sygne.  
Browes large/to templys eche stretchynge.  
Sygne of hym that falsnesse/wyll maynteyne.  
Whiche kepe meane/take hede of my doctrine.  
And in moche heer/be not aboundyng.  
Euydent sygne/be of good understandyng.

**C**note this mater/entyle it redely.  
Longe nose stretchyng/to the mouthe.  
Token is man bolde/and hardy.  
And he that hache/to nature that is unkouthe.  
Camyd nose/boze/in nozthe or southe.  
With crystell of nose/lytell redely.  
Is soone wrothe/hoote and hasty.

**C**ferther take hede/to my doctryne.  
Large nose in myddes/whiche dothe by tylle.  
Of a lyer and grete spekyng/e is sygne.  
Is olde phylosophers/cleately dothe deuyse.  
By their planet and nature/is theyr guyse.  
That nose thyllys/ne nose **I** the herte.  
Ouer lytell hache/ne ouer grete.

**C**In this mater/ferther to procede.  
And it entyle/vnto thy good grace.  
Mo of membris/to the it is nede.  
Propytees to knowe/in speciall of the face.  
Derke ignorance/awaye whiche wyll chase.  
Whiche platte and pleyne/though he be specious.  
Is sygne euydent/of man euous.

**C**Sygnes before/full conclucion.  
As in wytynge/phylosophers sayne.  
Whan face keþeth/dewe proportion.  
These dymencions/he keþyth in certayne.  
Not engrosyd/nouther ouer playne.  
Jawes and temples/in meane bptysyng.  
Whiche sygne is of wytte/it grete bndestandynge.

¶ Meane in boyls/nouther to grete nor small.  
Sygne is of trouthe/and ryghtwysnesse.  
Who speketh soone/or any man hym call.  
Is vncesonable/as philosopers expresse.  
Grete boyls sygne of hastynesse.  
Grete sowynnge/enyvous and angry.  
Fayre an hyghe/of wylnesse and foly.

¶ Consydre alysaundre/by dylygent labout.  
Who in talkyng/concepue what I meane.  
Handes doth meue/is a discryuour.  
He stande stable from/these/is pure and clene.  
With nekke to smale/in proportion who be sene.  
Is a sole ouer shorte/discryable.  
And ouer groos a lyete/detestable.

¶ He that hathe wombe/grete without measure  
Proude lecherous is/and unþudent.  
Breste large/and shulders grete in sure.  
With bakke well shape/be sygnes euydent.  
Of man woxthy/wyse and þouydent.  
Good of vnderstandinge/hardy to fyghte.  
Who hathe the contrarie/is noyous to ech þerghit.

¶ Itemys longe/stretchyng/to the kneps.  
Token of wyl dame/is and hardynesse.  
Shulders sharpe/I mane nat ceysyd with sleups.  
Of euyll saythe is/lyklynnesse.  
Longe syngers/trouthe to expresse.  
Craftis to lerne/þeueth dispolicion.  
In especiall/of mannall operacion.

**C**he that hath fyngers/grete and shorte.  
Is disposed note/this doctryne.  
To be a foole nyse/in his disporte.  
Who hath grete fete/vntrouths wyl maynteyne.  
Lytell and lyght/by euydent sygne.  
That he is harde/of vnderstandynge.  
And smale legges/betoken of symple cunnyng.

**C**Of legges and helpe/betokeneth largenesse.  
Myghty to be/in streyngthe of body.  
In knees also/trouthe to expresse.  
He that ouer moche/fleshy.  
Is softe and feble/letne this naturally.  
Who hath lytell pacis/he is of euyll wylle.  
In all thynges/and hasty without skylle.

**C**To all vertue/disposed/and scyence.  
Good and kynde/of complexion.  
Is a man/hauyng in sentence.  
Synges twelve/by computacion.  
Fleshe softe/of disposition.  
Of meanely shapte/and of meane stature.  
Bytwene whyte and rede/in colour kepereth measure

**C**Swete of loke/and the eerys playne.  
Even meanely/grete by measure.  
The hede not grete/but bytwene twayne.  
Moche and lytell/is good I the sure.  
Necke suffycyent/and of good stature.  
Whose shulders/bowe a lytell mesurably.  
In legges no; knees/be not moche fleshy.

**C**lere of boise/and eke mesurable.  
Palmys and syngers/longe in suffisaunce.  
**S**koznes to vse/is not comendable.  
Lawghynge bysage/is good in dalyaunce.  
Wsyd in meane/with dewe circumstaunce.  
For after the mater/requyreteth and audyence.  
**S**o countenaunce/to shewe is good prouydence.

**C**Be oon in syght/deme no man to soone.  
In sentence bref/folowe my doctryne.  
For hasty demyng/where men haue to done.  
Of in prouydence/is cypdent sygne.  
And this boke/brefly to termyne.  
In one membre/for full conclucion.  
Neuer deme manrys/disposition.

**C**Beholde all sygnes/gyue aduerttence.  
Whiche moste haboundyng/to se is auayllable.  
And in mynde/by polptyk prudence.  
Roumbre of them/whiche be moste profytale.  
In partie beste/and moste amyable.  
Whiche the maye graunt/the lord moost impiall.  
Aboue all heuens/supra celestyall.

**A** **M** **E** **R**  
**C**Goolytell boke/and mekely do me excuse.  
To all tho that/shall these or rede.  
If ony man thy rudenesse/lyste accuse.  
Make no dyffERENCE/but with lowlyhede.  
Praye hym reforme/where as he leyth nede.  
To that entent/I do the forthe directe.  
Where thou fayllest/that men shall the correcte.

¶ Thus endeth the gouernance of kyngs & prynces  
Imprynted at London in flete strete at the syg  
ne of the George / by Rycharde Pynson /  
Prynter unto the Kynges noble gracie /  
the yere of our Lord. M. CCCC  
xi. the. xviij. daye of Aprell. ☽



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